

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVIII.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 21st DECEMBER, 1908.

No. 25

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News	439
Leading Articles.—	
Checking a Disgusting Habit	440
British Politics	440
Reform in China	441
The Age of Invention	441
The Regent on Education	442
The Canton-Hankow Railway	442
Hongkong's Opium Question	443
Reform of the British House of Lords	443
Random Reflections	443
Hongkong News	444
Canton News	445
St. John's Lodge Installation	445
The S.S. "Fatahan" Affair	446
A Soldier's Death	446
Hongkong Legislative Council	447
Japanese Military Expenditure	451
Japan Notes	451
The Trade of the Philippines	451
Supreme Court	452
The Robbery at the Ewo Cotton Company's Office	455
Interesting Extradition Argument	455
Correspondence.—	
A Sensational Announcement	456
A Hongkong Boy at Oxford	456
A Gamblers' Retreat	456
Ballios Public School	456
Kulungsu (Amoy) Municipal Council	456
The Hongkong College of Medicine	456
The New Peak Tramway	457
Coxswain's Reward for Bravery	457
A Revolutionary Movement	457
Death of Sir Ewen Cameron	457
Football Races	457
Shipping Notes	458
The New Power in China	458
Unemployment in Japan	453
Libel Actions in China and Japan	458
Reviews	459
Japan and the Trade Marks Question	459
The Terrible Calamity at a Straits Quarry	459
Commercial	460
Shipping	462

BIRTHS.

On December 2nd, at Shanghai, the wife of WM. YOUNG, of a son.
On December 3rd, at Shanghai, the wife of J. OWEN, I. M. Customs, of a son.
On December 3rd, at Wuchow, the wife of ALAN WILSON, Chinese Customs Service, of a daughter.
On 14th December, at the Government Civil Hospital, the wife of Sergeant WM. DAVITT, H.K.P., of a daughter.
On 14th December, at Victoria Hospital, the wife of R. H. CROFTON, of a son.

DEATH.

On December 3rd, at Shanghai, JOHN CHRISTOPHER NICHOLAS, late of I. M. Customs Service, aged 40 years.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS

The German Mail of the 18th November arrived per s.s. *Derfflinger* on the 17th inst.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Monsieur J. C. G. Bertrand has assumed charge of the French Consulate at Manila.

The Shanghai Amateur Dramatic Club are staging "Peter's Mother" at the Lyceum Theatre.

The Government of the Philippines has offered prizes as an incentive to agriculturists cultivating tobacco.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the leader of the Reform party in South China, is, according to latest advices, now at Bangkok.

The funeral of the late Empress-Dowager is fixed for the fourth day of the second moon of next year (February 23rd).

Lieutenant H. E. Large, 3rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, has been appointed Garrison Adjutant at Singapore.

The first ice in the river at Tientsin was seen this winter on November 27th. It was expected that the port would be closed by the 10th inst.

The Hon. Cecil Scott Napier (32), Hampton Court Palace, S.W., and of Shanghai, son of the late Field-Marshal Lord Napier of Magdala left estate worth £2,650.

The *Straits Times* says there is no truth in the rumour that the cholera is spreading rapidly in Singapore. The number of deaths continues at two or three daily.

The typhoon of the 5th inst. seems to have done considerable damage to property in the Philippine Islands. The loss of life on land and sea does not, happily, appear to have been great.

Among recently-elected Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute are the Rt. Rev. C. J. Corfe, D.D., late Bishop of Korea; Mr. Roger D. Acton, of the Straits Settlements, and Mr. Herbert A. Hope of the Federated Malay States.

Owing to the limited number of experienced Chinese nobles of ability, the Prince Regent proposes to send a large number of young members of the nobility to Europe and America to pursue their studies there for a period of at least three years.

We note in the passenger list of the s.s. *Derfflinger*, which arrived here last week the name of Professor Dr. Friesland. Dr. Friesland is a professor of Philology, and father of Mr. G. Friesland, managing partner of Messrs. Melchers and Co. in Hongkong.

Shanghai papers contain full reports of the libel action brought by Mr. E. T. Bethell against the *N.-C. Daily News*. It appears from the evidence that Mr. Bethell had required the defendants to pay him \$25,000 as damages. The Jury awarded \$3,000.

President Roosevelt has informed the Merchants' Association of Manila that, though the trip he has planned makes it impossible for him to accept their invitation to him to visit the Philippines now, he earnestly hopes that at some time not far distant he will be able to go to the islands.

A safe was stolen from Messrs. Brunner Mond and Company's offices at Shanghai on the night of the 5th inst, and was subsequently found in a field off Markham Road, but the contents, estimated to value Tls. 3,000, were missing. Five men and two women are charged with being concerned in the robbery.

Another of the popular concerts given by the band of S.M.S. *Fuerst Bismarck* took place in the City Hall on Dec. 16, and was well attended. The various musical items on the programme were rendered with consummate skill, and the applause of the auditors bore testimony to the fact that they were highly appreciated.

The Grand Secretariat has requested the Wai-wu-pu to notify the various Ministers abroad that the birthday of the Emperor Hsuen Tung will be kept on the 13th day of the first moon in each year.

Another Chinese loan in view is one of 1,500,000 taels for forestry purposes. H. E. Tong Shao Yi, who has gone to Washington on a special ambassadorial mission, had the matter in hand and intended, it is said, to negotiate with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The matter remains in abeyance during his absence, other means of providing the necessary funds having failed.

The official mourning for the late Emperor and Empress Dowager of China expired on Saturday. Red chops are again to be used on official despatches. The Constitutional Bureau has had the despatches from various Powers to China on the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager bound, and has entitled the volume the "Sympathy of the Five Continents on the Imperial Deaths." These are to be sent to various educational chambers for the information of the people.

The steamer *Hanping*, which sank on the Pootung side of the river at Shanghai after having had a collision with H.M.S. *Flora* some time ago, is still lying in a submerged condition and from the present outlook it appears, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, that she will be there for some time to come. A coffer dam was built round the hatches and by this means most of her cargo of pig iron was discharged. Since then the coffer dam has sunk below the surface of the water and the ship itself has sunk in the mud to a depth of seven feet. It is believed that a coffer dam will have to be built round the entire ship before she can be finally raised.

Sir Robert Bredon, acting Inspector-General of Customs, accompanied by the Senior Members of the Inspectorate Staff, Messrs. Hillier, Chief Secretary; Piry, Postal Secretary; and Hemeling, Chinese Secretary, attended by special arrangement, in the Imperial Palace to pay their respects to the remains of the late Empress Dowager. The acting Inspector-General was accorded the treatment of an official of the First Class, and he and his staff made their bows in the presence of the Imperial coffins at the same place as officials of that rank. The *Shanghai Times* believe that this is the first occasion on which any members of the Customs service, other than the Inspector-General, have attended any ceremonial in the Palace.

A London paper to hand by yesterday's mail says.—It would seem that the City will shortly be offered the opportunity of subscribing for a security of an exceptional character. For some time past a railway has been in process of construction in the Philippines under the auspices of a well-known international firm of contractors, and it is, we believe, the intention of the promoters to offer for subscription shortly 4,000,000 dol. of the bonds secured upon the line. This capital will have the guarantee of the local Government, and it is believed the bonds will have a special value from the fact that the United States Government has agreed to accept them up to 90 per cent. of the face value for security against deposits by the Treasury. They will bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent., and it is expected that they will be offered here and at New York, the issue price being 95.

We regret to record the sudden death, at Hebburn, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, of Captain W. E. Duke, who was for 28 years connected with the Glen Line of steamers, trading between London and China.

On the 12th instant a policeman in Shek Wan writes our Canton correspondent, arrested a man in the street for infringing the State mourning regulations by shaving his head within the mourning period. The delinquent did not offer any resistance nor did he utter a word of dissatisfaction. The offender quietly accompanied the policeman, but on turning into a quiet street he pulled out a revolver and shot his captor dead. The culprit then ran away. All trace of him was lost. The man is variously described as a reformer and a pirate.

Hongkong and other similar dollars on a silver basis are usually imported into Bangkok, says the Financial Adviser to the Government of Siam, for two purposes only—firstly, for use in the arts, and secondly for sale to Chinese immigrants returning to their own country, via Hongkong. These usually take their savings with them in the form of silver dollars and the Customs returns show that there was a large increase last year, as compared with the previous one, in the number of deck passengers both entering and leaving the port of Bangkok—the departures for Hongkong numbering over 42,000 against the previous year's figure of 32,000 odd, or an advance of 31 per cent. This fact probably accounts for a considerable portion of the increased import of dollars, while the unusually low rate of exchange on Hongkong which prevailed during the latter part of the year may also have had some effect in inducing speculative importations.

In reference to the announcement of the appointment of Mr. Rufus Thayer as Judge of the United States Court of China, the *N.-C. Daily News* understands that Judge Wilfey formally tendered his resignation on November 16th, to take effect on January 1, 1909. At the same time Mr. Arthur Bassett tendered to the Washington Government his resignation of the post of District Attorney. Coming at the present juncture, it is inevitable, remarks our contemporary, that these resignations should be open to misconstruction; "but we believe that we are right in saying that the issue between Mr. Wilfey and his Government has been of a personal nature. Certainly, neither Mr. Wilfey nor Mr. Bassett has hesitated to face any music that may have been prepared for them; and having mapped out a vigorous line of conduct from the first they deserve credit for the courage with which they have adhered to it. The birth of the United States Court for China has been accompanied by somewhat violent throes, but the good sense of the American community will be content to leave the verdict on the first years of its work to the impartial judgment of later generations of residents."

Mr. J. W. Gibson, president of the Manila Merchants' Association, and one of the most successful lumber merchants in the Philippines, is at present staying at the Hongkong Hotel. He is returning to Manila from the United States, where he has been on holiday. Mr. Gibson owns various timber concessions in the Philippines, mainly on the Island of Mindanao, and carries about forty-five varieties of wood in his lumber yard at Manila, principally pine used in the manufacture of furniture. It is worked into doors, windows and ceilings by 500 Filipinos in his employ. Mr. Gibson has never attempted to enter the China trade, as the present method of getting Philippine woods, he explained to a *Daily Press* representative, makes it too expensive for competition with Borneo and Australia. It had been proposed to him on several occasions that he should provide woods for different railways in China, but for the reasons stated he did not see his way to consider the propositions favourably. There are several woods in the Archipelago of the texture and quality of pine, but the cost of getting them makes it more economical to use pine from Oregon. There is not much business in cheap grades of lumber in the Philippines, but the excellent hardwoods of the islands are mostly used for building purposes, as they are impervious to white ants. Mr. Gibson concluded with the remark that if more of such woods had been used in some of the buildings in Hongkong, a few collapses might have been avoided.

CHECKING A DISGUSTING HABIT.

(Daily Press, December 12th.)

There can be no two opinions, among Europeans at least, about the filthiness of the habit of expectoration, so common among the Chinese population, and there has from time to time been a strong desire manifested for some legislative enactment which would stamp it as a nuisance and make spitting in public places, other than in the drains, a punishable offence. The Sanitary Board has, on several occasions, had the matter under consideration, and on the broad ground that the habit is detrimental to the public health the Government propose to deal with it by so amending the Magistrates' Ordinance as to give the Governor-in-Council power to issue regulations and attaching penalties for disregarding them. Alike on the ground of social inconvenience and for hygienic reasons this measure ought to be welcomed, but, as the reader will have noticed, it met with opposition on various grounds when the Bill came up for its second reading at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday. The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, while claiming to be a strict sanitarian, argued that hygienically considered there was nothing to choose between spitting promiscuously in the public streets and the more refined practice of using handkerchiefs. Further reflection, we are sure, will satisfy Dr. Ho Kai that his argument is ill considered and unsound. Hygienically considered there is a vast difference between the two practices which it is quite unnecessary for us to elaborate. Another of Dr. Ho Kai's contentions was that "habit is second nature and becomes a sort of involuntary act," which is true enough, but it is none the less necessary that some check should be placed upon disgusting involuntary acts in a civilised society. In short, it seems to us, that Dr. Ho Kai's speech begs the question, for it was not in contemplation to stop the habit, but simply to regulate it. There would be no need to fill the gaols with offenders. We believe that when the regulations are published and when it is known that there is the force of law at the back of them, we shall soon see a great improvement in the Colony in this respect. It will not be necessary for the police to arrest every man they see offending against the regulations; it will generally be sufficient for them to impress upon the offender that it is a punishable offence. There is not much difficulty in stopping Chinese from expectorating promiscuously in the public schools or in the workshops where they are under European supervision, and in view of the prevalence of tuberculosis among the Chinese it seems highly desirable in their own interest that something should be done to check or regulate a habit which is not only disgusting but dangerous. As to the other objection which the Hon. Mr. Gresson and the Hon. Mr. Slade shared with the Chinese representatives, namely that such legislation would have a disturbing effect on the Chinese, we are quite sure that the Government fully appreciate the necessity for acting with the greatest caution in the matter. All the members of the Council, Mr. Gresson said, were agreed that it was a desirable Bill, but those who objected to it said the time was not ripe for forcing these regulations on the Chinese. This objection seems to us to be sufficiently met by the promise of His Excellency the Governor not to issue regulations for a period of six months. His Excellency is in favour of trying first the

suggestion of the Sanitary Board that public notices should be posted up, and we are inclined to think that if the police were at the same time instructed to speak to the persons they see disregarding the notice, possibly because they are unable to read it, a considerable improvement would soon be noticeable. Having regard to the declarations of His Excellency the Governor, we can see no adequate reason for further postponing legislation on this subject.

BRITISH POLITICS.

(Daily Press, December 14th.)

Reading recent telegrams bearing on the political situation at home the fateful words which scripture has made well known "Mene mene tekél upharsen" suggest themselves. The British Government have surely seen the handwriting on the wall, and it can only be a matter of months before they realise that the end has come. True, they may on an appeal to the country, return with a semblance of power, but it does not require the gift of prophecy to realise that the Liberal Party has passed its zenith. Whether it will coalesce with the Conservatives and Unionists or be swallowed up by the Labour and Socialist Party is not for us to say, but it is apparent that the advent of a new political party has not made for the best interests of traditional Liberalism. As a rule, home politics have little more than an academic interest for us in the East except perhaps when, like the opium question, they have a direct bearing on our welfare, and we do not feel greatly concerned whether a Home Ruler is returned for Pudsey or a Passive Resister is elected to represent West Ham, but as the two great parties are popularly supposed to have distinguishing colonial and foreign policies we are interested in knowing which party is to hold the seals of office. For that reason, if for no other, the present political situation claims our attention.

Perhaps the most conspicuous failure of the Government was their attempt to solve the education problem of England. Their first Bill passed the Commons, but was rejected by the Lords, and their second effort which was anticipated with so much hope has met with even less success. Then the much-discussed Licensing Bill met a fate similar to the first Education Bill, and now the Upper House has rejected another important measure, the second Scottish Land Bill. The fact that the House of Lords, which on other occasions has correctly interpreted the opinion of the country, has dared to throw out so many measures without raising any general outcry, is proof that the second chamber is fully alive to its responsibilities and does not act from mere wantonness or prejudice. The Government may imagine that the Lords, in doing what they have done, are "filling up the cup" but another aspect of the case is that the Government is itself riding to a fall. Its most important proposals have been negatived. The cry of the unemployed heard throughout the land cannot sound pleasant in the ears of Cabinet ministers, and the mucous voice of the Suffragettes everywhere piercing the air must give them moments of disquietude, not to speak of the mournful tolling which indicated ministerial defeats at bye-elections. The Government prospect is indeed far from promising. Everybody's hand seems raised against them. Labour is dissatisfied, the shrieking sisterhood is far from content, Nonconformists are disgusted with their friends, the licensed trade is at open war, and the Home Rulers have not yet been pacified. The forces of opposition are

daily growing, and it is apparent that the appeal to the country cannot long be delayed.

It is, of course, quite possible that the Liberals may be again returned to office, but it is apparent to the student of politics that the day of big majorities is over. Were it not for the weakness and divisions which still characterise the Opposition, they might reasonably hope to resume government responsibility on the next dissolution, but even their most sanguine supporter can scarcely hope for such a result. The two great parties being split up into numerous factions and the Labour and Socialist Party, aggressive, though divided, makes any forecast of the future unusually hazardous. Immediate success will fall to the party which can amalgamate the various heterogeneous elements into an effective voting force, but such success will only be of a temporary nature and we may anticipate a future of many parties and many changes.

REFORM IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, December 15th.)

In a recent article on Chinese affairs a writer in *The Spectator* confessed that after reading a large part of what has been written on the subject of the national ideals of China and their progress, he was still unable to perceive what the springs of the movement really are. Are the reforms he asked, only the inevitable result, and no more, of the impact of European influences which have become so much stronger since the "Boxer" rising? Are they the result of the resolute and brave administration of a few enlightened rulers like YUAN SHI-KAI, and will they pass away if weaker men come into office? Is the burden of the Manchu dynasties finally to be removed from a country which has been long suffering in supporting them, as in everything else? Is there a fundamental craving, which will in the end become irresistible, for a constitutionally-governed land? To all these questions the London journal replies: "We do not know." This attitude of doubt and uncertainty may make "the eternal riddle of China" all the more fascinating, but even if the result be unsatisfactory it is worth while seeking the solution of the riddle. It can certainly be affirmed that no single one of the developments mentioned in the above series of questions has inspired the new national ideals, but they all have helped to create and maintain the grand ideal of a Reformed China which shall command the respect of the civilised world. Perhaps the mainspring of the movement is to be found in China's sensitiveness to the humiliating position she occupies in the world, and to a growing sense of her impotence in many directions. The time has not long passed—we are not sure indeed that we can even now say that it has quite passed—when the sentiment that "there are none like unto us" ceased to be thoroughly believed in. But the steadily increasing impact of European influences is producing its due effect: a great change indeed has come over the spirit of the people's dream, and what with the new educational movement and the steady extension of the newspapers press, carrying enlightenment to millions, the foundations of reform and progress are being solidly laid. These reforms may be attributed with good show of reason to the resolute and brave administration of a few enlightened rulers like YUAN SHI-KAI, but we do not believe they will pass away if weaker men come to office. These enlightened rulers are simply "taking occasion by the hand." What we have to note is that among the

people there is a growing recognition of China's backwardness among the nations of the world, and their sensitiveness on the subject manifests itself in a keen sympathy with every effort to remove this reproach from their land. We observe very little evidence of a "fundamental craving for a constitutionally-governed land"; if any such craving existed its satisfaction probably would not be so long delayed. The promise of a constitution is to be dangled before the nation for another nine years. As yet, the aspirations for reform are vague, and the people appear in a frame of mind to accept any method of achieving reform that the Government at Peking may decree. A Constitution will put tremendous power in their hands, and it looks as though the Government were content to await that devolution of power before attempting to deal with the root of the trouble—the rottenness of the financial administration. Until that task is taken in hand it would be futile to hope for any substantial and permanent progress in China. For the present it is the sense of humiliation that inspires progress in China. The presence of the troops of seven nations in the capital of the empire has done more for reform in China than could have been accomplished by all other means in the course of a century. May it not with some confidence be said that the end and aim of all the effort in the minds of the majority is to "recover the rights" which China has lost during the last sixty years? It is what Count HAYASHI, formerly Japanese Minister to Peking, has called an "ebullition of anti-foreignism." We can believe with the Count that it will increase in intensity as the awakening of China is quickened; but so long as this "anti-foreignism" is manifested in peaceful effort to so improve administration in China that she may, by-and-by, take her place among the nations of the world on an equal footing, and so lay claim to recover her jurisdiction over the present Settlement areas, we can, watch the progress of the new movement with sympathetic interest.

THE AGE OF INVENTION.

(Daily Press, 16th December.)

Perhaps for the past three or four hundred years no invention has created an equally great social revolution with the simple "byke," and its follower the motor car; both have in their way increased the ordinary facilities for locomotion, so that distances, that but few years ago would have required the exercise of much force, and occupied a notable period of time, as well as needing much preliminary preparation of person and raiment, may now be covered in the period usually occupied in one's daily walk. The byke, too, is essentially the poor man's conveyance: it costs him nothing for fuel or fodder, and only requires such repairs and attention as the ordinary clever mechanic can do himself. It enables further his children to go longer distances to school, and so enables them to take advantage in a way before unthought of the benefits of a higher education than is offered at the ordinary local school.

What the humble byke is to the poor man the motor car is to his more wealthy neighbour: it stands always ready to be mounted, and in an hour or two will carry him over distances, without inconvenience, which would, even ten or twelve years ago, have needed extensive preparations, and probably entailed all the necessities of a railway journey, and carriages at both ends. The periodical break-up of the household, often once a week for the "week end," has

now entered into the ordinary routine of existence and the facility with which the machine can be carried on board ship, and transported from one country to another has materially altered the conditions of life, and carried into the ordinary human being's existence, one of the main enjoyments of the humble snail—that of being able to carry about with him practically his whole household, without the one great drawback of the snail's life—his inability to exceed a crawl.

Now it is undeniable that the habits engendered by this modern facility of movement, have made vast changes in our homelives and customs; and it may be almost said in our morals. Unfortunately, too, it may be said, not always for the better. If we are becoming quicker in our thoughts, and more rapid in our movements, we are also apparently as a nation becoming more frivolous and careless of consequences. What the introduction of the electric telegraph did for our commerce, that of the byke and motor-car are doing for our private life. Our merchant used to be a man of wide knowledge, who had to undertake a long and difficult operation after due study of all the eventualities, with as much care and precision as the mathematician needed in working out the orbit of some expected celestial visitor. Now-a-days he has exchanged his place with the speculator, whose sole occupation is the mere counting of the chances, often without the slightest knowledge of the article in which he is dealing or the circumstances of the markets for which it is destined. Real trade is thus hindered and the merchant too often placed at the mercy of the mere heedless speculator, whose highest mental effort is to play a mere game of pitch and toss with Lady Fortune. The same influences are at work in the social life of the day; the careful and conscientious worker in science finds himself handicapped in his researches by the smatterer who has picked up perchance some of the shibboleth of the craft from such publications as *Science Stiftings*, and is able on such pabulum for the moment to pass as a man of research, and so retard *ad infinitum* the work of the real master of his craft. The publisher, like the stockbroker who strives to make his buying and selling a real business, finds himself cut out by the mere panderer to the taste of the moment; and is forced to deal in literary options and futures, to the destruction of everything that is real or genuine. Haste rather than quality has become publicly and privately the order of the day, and feverish worry takes the place of wisdom.

Such are, of course, the thoughts of the pessimist. There is a vast amount of truth in them, and it is unfortunate that every step in civilisation has had from the beginning of the world to contend with similar drawbacks. It is quite possible that the Australian "b. y." who wanders about eating the filthiest food, clothed only in the merest rag to protect himself against the inclemencies of the weather, enjoys life just as much as the fur-clad beauty in her most up-to-date motor car; neither is perhaps to blame for acting on the motto "*carpe diem*," only each step secured in advance makes the step backward seem the more horrible: and so, whether we like it or not, we are carried on with the irresistible current of our surroundings. This seems to be to us more particularly the case at the present time. It was but the other day that we were complaining that the inventive talent of the day had come to a standstill, yet within the last few years we have seen the steam turbine striding on to the supersession of JAMES WATT's great invention of the reciprocating engine; nay, we have seen the

steam engine itself threatened with extinction before the internally fired machine of the day. It was but the other day that the electric tram car came to the great joy of the locomotive public, yet to the intense disgust of all lovers of art, who see their view of God's heaven shut out by a vulgar network of poles and wire. It was only a generation ago that the electric wire came to connect the most distant lands, and create new wants and new inconveniences and dangers; yet already we see looming in sight quite a new development of electricity which will for the moment gladden the heart of the artist. Wireless telegraphy, a few years, or months ago, a vision of the imagination of a few sanguine experimenters, is now looming on the horizon as a realised accomplished fact. Already a concert performed in Berlin has been heard in Stockholm, and signs thrown into the ether at New York are regularly read on the coast of England. It seems to be certain, following up present indications, that the barbarous practise, as we shall call it then, of carrying our electricity along unsightly wires will be done away with, and the people who accomplish this will be hailed by artistic folk as true benefactors of the human race. But will they be so? Experience would rather tend to show that it will be merely an exchange, and that our imaginary artistic paradise be followed by something even more profoundly nasty.

It was but the other day that SANTOS DUMONT astonished the world by navigating a huge balloon round the Eiffel Tower. Then German inventors claimed the world's attention for airships. But other clever and more practical inventors had been for some little time at work, and to herald the last year HENRY FARMAN, with a mere stretch of canvas actually flew a few hundred yards, and came down none the worse for his Icarian attempt. So already the airship has had to give way to the more handy and workmanlike aviator. Now there is little doubt that in a little while, as in the case of the humble byke, the aviator, or whatever we shall call it then, will take the place of the byke, and the school boy will think as little of putting on his wings and flying off to school, as to-day he does of mounting his byke. Probably the artist will rejoice at having found a joy for ever; but as before, will it turn out a thing of beauty, and will the world be any the happier for the event? It will be very pleasant doubtless for future ROMEOS to be able to evade the watchful CAPULETS of the day, and fly into the chamber of their JULIETS without the encumbrances of ropes and ladders. But will the world be aught the wiser or happier for the performance? That is still the mighty problem of the future.

THE REGENT ON EDUCATION.

(Daily Press, 17th December.)

China's new ruler apparently intends to create a favourable impression. One of the latest pronouncements of the PRINCE REGENT is a suggestion that education should be made compulsory throughout the Empire. He has not issued a decree on the subject; and therein he shows his wisdom for, desirable as the object is, it could not be carried out at present. Were he to have published an Edict commanding that schools should be established and education made general and compulsory he would have brought the Throne into a ridiculous light and demonstrated, what it is not expedient to make too clear, that the central authority

is not always able to execute the laws which it promulgates. But that by the way. The main point is that PRINCE CHUN is not content to adopt a passive attitude, but that he wishes to indicate the lines which progress should take in the great Empire whose destinies are figuratively, if not actually, under his control.

Compulsory education in China sounds well, and bears the stamp of progress. But desirable as it is, it hardly comes within the region of practical politics, and for one great incontrovertible reason—the wherewithal is lacking. Before China can attempt any real reform she must reorganise her finances. She must have a steady revenue: she must have an income on which she can rely. The money raised from the taxpayers must not go to the enrichment of the tax-gatherers, but every cent of it should go into the public purse. Then all things which are humanly possible become practicable. A strong army, a powerful navy, a system of education, these and other things will follow the readjustment of taxation which will provide the necessary funds for the exchequer to finance and administer the country. But even under present limitations much may be done to make education more general than it is in the Empire. Viceroy SHUM, who was regarded as a reactionary by many in Hongkong has the honour of having made very laudable attempt to provide greater educational facilities in the Two Kwang Provinces. He ordered that schools should be established in practically every village in Kwangtung and Kwangsi and threw the responsibility of maintaining these upon the gentry. The scheme may not be free from criticism, but it appeared to be an honest attempt to deal with a crying evil, and it has the merit of surviving his departure. The schools started by his prompting exist in large number to-day and, as they are conducted on fairly modern lines, their institution must be regarded as a boon to the two provinces named.

Undoubtedly the education question demands attention. While those resident in cities and in villages near the great centres of population usually possess some degree of learning acquired by more or less attendance at school, the great mass of the people in the interior remain illiterate. And it will be no easy matter to reach them. To make education compulsory and universal is a formidable undertaking from which even the most progressive statesman might shrink. Village schools could not be supported by the ordinary village community without some grant in aid from government, —unless of course in those happily circumstanced localities where philanthropists come to the rescue, —and the Government is not yet in a position to make the necessary contribution. No matter from what standpoint the subject is viewed, the financial difficulty presents itself. That even the son of the poorest farmer might be able to attend school is the reported ambition of the Regent, but grave obstacles stand in the way of its realisation and this ideal, like so many others, is certainly very far off. That, of course, need not prevent educational leaders working for it. Rome was not built in a day. Many years of agitation and debate passed before education was made compulsory in Britain. What a hiatus there was between the establishment of the universities and the establishment of the grammar schools we know, and also the blank in educational progress between that and the Education Act of 1870. China has a long road to travel before she attains universal education, but that need not deter her from starting on the way.

THE CANTON HANKOW RAILWAY.

(Daily Press, December 18th.)

Commenting, some weeks ago, upon the Edict giving to H. E. CHANG CHIH TUNG supreme control of the affairs of the Canton-Hankow railway we suggested that, in view of the difficulties experienced in obtaining payment of calls on the share capital as they fell due, the announcement seemed to threaten that the Director would raise a foreign loan if the Chinese shareholders persisted in their neglect or refusal to provide the funds they had undertaken to supply. This is evidently the view which has been taken of the announcement by the shareholders generally in the province of Kwangtung, for our Canton correspondent in his communication published this morning reports that a sum amounting to upwards of five million dollars has now been paid by the recalcitrant shareholders in Kwangtung province on the second instalment of the share capital. This call has been long overdue. Time for payment has been extended again and again without much result. The intimation issued by CHANG CHIH TUNG when he assumed supreme direction less than a couple of months ago, clearly indicated that the limit of patience in this matter had been reached, and his thinly-veiled intention to have recourse to foreign capital, rather than suffer the work of construction to be delayed, has obviously stimulated effort on the part of Kwangtung shareholders to prevent a stultification of that great outburst of patriotic pride and pretension which started the work on Chinese capital and under Chinese supervision and control. It would appear from a Peking telegram published in northern papers that steps have already been taken by the Viceroy of Canton with a view to raising a loan from British capitalists for this purpose, though in the face of the Edict giving to H. E. CHANG CHIH TUNG supreme controls and expressly prohibiting interference by the provincial Viceroys, it is by no means clear what the Viceroy has to do with the question. We can only suppose that H. E. CHANG CHIH TUNG being overwhelmed with affairs of State connected with the accession of the new Emperor, has delegated authority to the Viceroy for the arrangement of the loan. The Viceroy is reported to have telegraphically memorialised the Throne that there is no prospect of completing the Liangkwan section of the line unless recourse is had to a foreign loan, and His Excellency is stated to have pointed out that, provided the agreement is properly drawn on the lines of the Tientsin-Pukou railway agreement, "the borrowing of foreign money in no wise interferes with China's rights and powers over the railway." He has, therefore, with the knowledge and consent of the Wai-wu-pu, the Viceroy of Hupah and the Governor of Hunan applied to England for a loan, in accordance with the agreement entered into when the Hongkong Government lent the money to redeem the concession from the American China Development Co. This agreement provides that in the event of the Liangkwan Provinces wanting to borrow money for railway purposes, England shall have the option of lending it. Perhaps it was the knowledge that negotiations, approved by Imperial Rescript, were actually in train for a foreign loan that has reduced the obstructive shareholders to penitence and fear. With the sum of five million dollars in hand the constructing staff are able to push on with the work. The determination of the higher authorities to countenance no delay in the

execution of this important undertaking is a very gratifying sign of the times and perhaps this resolve in itself has done much to persuade the shareholders to pay up as they are well aware that the sooner the line is in operation the sooner are they likely to see a return on the capital invested.

HONGKONG'S OPIUM QUESTION.

(Daily Press, December 18th.)

The quiet re-iteration by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies of the familiar phrase, "The Government is now considering the Governor of Hongkong's recommendations" with regard to the closing of the opium divans in the Colony must be a little wearisome and disconcerting to the Anti-Opium League, and in particular, to Mr. TAYLOR, M.P., who is at regular intervals put up to ask the questions which elicit this stereotyped reply. It was early in May last that the Government telegraphed its peremptory order to the Colonial Government to take steps to close the opium divans. To the community, at any rate, it is of some interest to know that the Imperial Government is still "considering" what H.E. the Governor has recommended, for, though the nature of these recommendations has not been made public, we may be quite sure that they are not in accord with the Imperial Government's original ideas on the subject. As the Home Government has just received the Report of the Straits Opium Commission, it is conceivable that no final decision will be reached regarding Sir FREDERICK LUGARD's recommendations until the Straits Report has been carefully digested, for the policy pursued in both colonies is likely to be much the same. We get no idea of the probable date of a decision from Colonel SEELY's statement that "the correspondence will be laid on the table in due course." One might suppose that the information elicited on the opium question in China during the last six months gives the Government reasonable excuse for delaying their decision until they have had an opportunity of learning the recommendations of the International Conference which takes place at Shanghai in February next.

REFORM OF THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS.

(Daily Press, December 19th.)

Any change affecting the "Mother of Parliaments" is a subject that naturally attracts more than a national interest. When extreme measures of the Radicals, forced through the House of Commons by sheer weight of numbers, have been rejected by the Upper Chamber, "Down with the Lords!" has been a favourite cry of the disappointed politicians. The feeling of which this is the expression is no new one. As far back as 1832 when the House of Lords impeded the passage of the first Reform Bill threats were made to alter the constitution of the House, not so much by ending it as by appointing new peers who would vote as required. The dissenting Lords, however, absented themselves on the day the Bill came up for its final reading and this contingency was not resorted to. Since then there have been repeated agitations for the abolition of the House of Lords, but they have never crystallised into action of any kind, and the Gilded Chamber continues to exercise its influence on present day legislation. Admittedly the House of Lords is not all that it might be. It is one part of the constitution of Great Britain which has changed least with the progress of the country and the growth of the present

political system, and even its most ardent admirers realise that the time is nigh when it should be moulded in conformity with modern ideas on Constitutional Government.

At present the reform of the House of Lords is contemplated both from within and without. The Government have not only expressed the conviction that the veto of the Lords must be restricted, but have indicated their intention of introducing a bill to give effect to this. Nay more, the Premier, Mr. ASQUITH, has declared that this will be the dominating issue in the next session of Parliament. Consequently the question is likely to be one that will rouse no little debate in the immediate future. The reform proposals made from without the Gilded Chamber are of varying degree, from total abolition to a mere limitation of the numbers who shall sit in the legislative assembly. The reforms proposed from within, however, are the most concrete before us, and they are not without a merit which will doubtless commend them to all but the most extreme on both sides. The Committee of the House of Lords in its report makes certain recommendations, the most important of which are the abolition of the hereditary right to a seat in the House of Lords; the introduction of the elective principle in providing that the peers themselves should appoint two hundred of their number to the positions of Lords of Parliament; the invitation to self-governing colonies to each send a representative to this Imperial Assembly; and the recognition of the knowledge and experience gained by men who have filled gubernatorial offices in the various Crown Colonies by giving them seats in the reconstituted Upper Chamber.

Looking at the first proposal mentioned, the abolition of the hereditary right to a seat in the House of Lords, it must be regarded as embodying a very drastic change. It goes right to the root of the constitution, and, were the principle accepted, it would have far reaching effects in British polity. It may be urged in its favour that it is only a return to original principles. That may or may not appeal to the ultra-Conservative, but it is a matter of history that neither our Saxon nor Celtic forbears recognised the hereditary principle until feudalism had become established. They preferred to elect their rulers, and, it is interesting, to say the least, to see proposals being made to re-introduce the old system. Disguise it as we may, the co-existence of an elective chamber and a hereditary chamber, is an anomaly, and, though other countries and other peoples have done us the honour to accept the two-chamber principle which distinguishes the mother of Parliaments, none of them have followed our example by instituting an elective assembly and a non-elective assembly. No, they have established both houses on an elective basis. The franchise on which they are elected may not be very broad, but still the principle of election is there. Had the House of Lords discharged its functions with some discretion, it is safe to say that it would not have remained as at present constituted for such a long period. Of course it has made mistakes, but so has the lower house. Naturally, when the upper house vetoes a measure which has passed through the lower chamber there is a large body of opinion which regards the action of the Lords as "mistaken," and attention is consequently directed to the constitution of the House. Different ideas to those formerly held on the subject of popular representation prevail nowadays, and public opinion inclines to the belief that, if the House of Lords is to remain, it must undergo change. Even

Peers themselves recognise this. Hereditary right, it is recommended, should not entitle a Peer to sit in the Upper House. The Peers should elect 200 of their number to sit in the legislative assembly, to be known as Lords of Parliament. Neither is this principle a new one. It obtains both in Scotland and Ireland. When the English and Scottish Parliaments were united, the Scottish Peers were not allowed to enter the English House of Lords. They had to elect sixteen of their number to represent them in that august assembly. This arrangement was due to the fact that in the Scottish Parliament Lords and Commons sat together. Again, on the union of the British and Irish Parliaments, the Irish peers could not enter the British House of Lords *en masse*. They had to elect twenty-eight of their number. So, it will be seen, the principle is not altogether new. Its chief advantage will be that it will make the house a real body of legislators. The spasmodic legislator, the peer who only participates in the consideration of measures in an idle moment, will be excluded, and will give place to a more earnest body of politicians, because it follows that only those who are keenly interested in politics will offer themselves for election. At the same time it has to be remembered that even the reconstituted house will reflect the opinions of the majority of the peers. If the majority of the Lords are Tariff Reformers it may be taken for granted that they will secure the return of a preponderance of Tariff Reformers to the House of Lords. There is one innovation, however, which may be expected to receive universal approval. That is the inclusion of nominees of the self-governing colonies and ex-governors of Crown Colonies. That will have the effect of investing the new House of Lords with an Imperial character and its deliberations will, in consequence, have greater weight. Even the voice of Hongkong can be heard then. Therefore, on the meagre telegraphic information we possess of the recommendations we may regard the outline of the proposed changes in the constitution as fairly satisfactory, and, if reform is to be introduced, such a scheme will, while making the assembly more representative, retain the historical character of the Upper House in the constitution of the country.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

"To spit or not to spit" that is the question. The Sanitary Board worried over it and dodged it. Now it is exercising the minds of our legislators who wear a look of perturbation and ask themselves in the words of our old friend Hamlet "whether it is nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous habits or take up arms against a sea of trouble and, by opposing, end them." How great a poet was Shakespeare. His language is still applicable to the present day even in this distant outpost of Empire.

But seriously, why all this bother? The Chinese in Hongkong, and those who come to our haven, naturally expect to find different conditions and different laws to those prevailing on the mainland, and if we are to be deterred by an ultra tender conscience from looking after the interests of the community by asking the people to be a little less offensive in their habits we are in a most unenviable position. The proposed regulations will not be as objectionable to Chinese as some of the sanitary laws to which they have been subjected, and I hope the Government, now that they have taken up the subject, will see it to a satisfactory conclusion.

Different men, different appellations. The Hon. Mr. Hewett has the honour of introducing a little variety into the formalities of debate in the august chamber of the Legislative Council. I see that on Thursday he referred to the Hon.

Mr. Grasson as the "hon. member nearest the door." I wonder if he attached any significance to the locality?

As an expert in the art of asking awkward questions Mr. Shelton Hooper has few equals. His latest exploit was at the Sanitary Board on Tuesday last when he innocently wanted to know what had become of their secretary. The acting President was dumbfounded. He fumbled with the papers in his hand, looked at the Vice-President opposite for inspiration, but the latter only smiled, and the silence that ensued was painful. Then the Artful One insinuated that he did not wish to press for an answer, and this gave relief to the youthful head of the department who looked pleased to have an opportunity of escaping from the predicament.

The Government were not slow to see the point of Mr. Hooper's query. I notice the *Daily Press* supplied the answer the following day and told where Mr. Woodcock was located, but the official announcement was not made until the publication of the *Gazette* on Saturday. I suppose Mr. Hooper will read the Government a lesson on their lack of courtesy and make them promise to be more circumspect in future.

The Colony has had a surfeit of amusement during the past week. Two performances by the A.D.C., two by the Bandmann Comedy Company, a Centipede Dance, a dance on the *Fuerst Bismarck*, and finally a dance at the Peak Club, to say nothing of the private dances. Is it any wonder that the ladies are "run down" at the end of the winter and feel they cannot face the trying summer? But "it's all good for trade," says my friend the Shipping Clerk.

By the way, I hear that the A.D.C. intend to give two more performances of *The Country Girl* during the Race week, and I hear whispers that they are getting up "Mice and Men" for still earlier production.

Mere man has been vanquished. He has been driven from his entrenchments of superiority and compelled to grant concessions to his conqueror. Woman lovely woman at length is to have a vote—at least the Government have promised to do this for her, and the "won't be happy-till-she-gets-it" expression ought to be removed from their sweet faces. No longer will the dear creatures talk of lazes and furlbulows and babies and things: their speech will henceforth be garnished with political phraseology, and a woman will by-and-bye be as well acquainted with tariff reform, the need of a strong army, and questions of foreign policy as with what is worn in London and Paris.

Aye women are "kittle cattle." The observation is trite, I'll admit, but it recalls to my mind the re-writing of one of Burns' poems. It was:

When Adam slept God from him took
A bone, and as an oven
Made it like a seraph look
And thus created woman.
He took this bone not from his pate
To show his power more ample
Nor from his foot to designate
That he on her might trample,
But near his arm to clearly show
How much he should protect her
And near his heart to let him know
How much he should respect her,
He took this bone, crooked enough,
Most crooked of the human.
To show him, how much crooked stuff
You always find in woman.

We in Hongkong have just been taught that the cat is the friend of man, and people who did not possess a domestic feline have been induced to provide a home for one or more pussies. We have come to regard the cat as a necessity, though doubtless some Chinese might regard it as a luxury, and it was with some surprise that I read the other day that the French Chancellor of the Exchequer, in looking round for new sources of revenue, had decided to impose a tax upon cats. Cat lovers thereupon set up a wail of indignation. The President of the League of the Friends of Cats, who is also a poet and works with a cat on each knee, waxes satirical and asks: Will the tax collector look for the house cat under the bed or behind the pile of M.S.S.

in the book case? His verdict is that the tax would be "undemocratic, detrimental to the public health, useless, and cruel." Another writer who loves cats approves of the tax because cats will be legally acknowledged. I refrain from adding any comment, lest the Hongkong Government, in trying to make ends meet, should take the hint.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

Sir Alexander Hosie, C.M.G., the British Commercial Attaché is paying a visit to Hongkong.

We regret to learn that Dr. Jen Hawk, the well-known Chinese physician, is ill with typhoid in the Civil Government Hospital.

Mr. R. Belilios and Mrs. Belilios were passengers by the P. and O. steamer *Delta* which arrived on Dec. 11th.

During last week four cases of communicable disease were reported in the Colony, three being cases of enteric fever and one of diphtheria. The victims were Europeans. Happily none of the cases were fatal.

The excavators at the Beacon Hill railway tunnel are expected to junction at an early date. So near are they to each other that the explosion of a blasting charge on one side can be heard by the men working at the other end.

The upsetting of a gasoline lamp caused a fire at 42, Cochrane Street, early on the 15th inst. The ground floor of this building, which is used as a shooting gallery, was gutted, and no insurance had been effected on the premises.

His Grace Archbishop Kelly of Sydney, who is returning to Australia from the Eucharistic Congress in London, visited several Roman Catholic institutions in the colony and in the evening addressed a meeting under the auspices of the Catholic Union.

In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to nominate Mr. Clementi, as representative of Hongkong, to assist the British Imperial Delegates at the forthcoming International Conference on Opium at Shanghai.

On Tuesday evening or early yesterday morning, Mr. McCorquodale of Quarry Bay was robbed of a gold watch and chain valued £22 10s. When he went to bed on Tuesday evening Mr. McCorquodale left his watch and chain on the dressing table, and when he awoke the following morning it had disappeared. The police are investigating.

The case of suspected murder reported from Taipo last week turns out to be one of suicide. A farmer, before hanging himself to a beam, opened the door of his residence and made his home appear as if robbers had ransacked it. His dead body was discovered by a relative, and later, when his wife returned home and made a search, she found that none of her belongings had been stolen.

Alfred Hall was again placed before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Dec. 15th, and Captain Trowbridge, chief of the secret service in the Philippines, appeared to apply for his surrender on charges of forging and embezzlement at Manila. As Hall was willing to return to Manila for trial, his Worship made the necessary order and Captain Trowbridge left with his charge in the afternoon.

On the 14th inst. Detective Sergeant Appleton went to Tung Wah Lane to search a house. On his arrival he found two men walking downstairs, one of them an ex-lukong. On searching these men he found a loaded revolver in the ex-lukong's pocket, and charged him before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy on Dec. 15 with carrying arms without a permit. His Worship imposed a fine of \$250, the alternative being three months' imprisonment.

The Italian Convent has sustained a great loss in the death of Sister Maria Allanson who passed peacefully away on the 14th inst. after a prolonged illness. Sister Allanson, who was born at Macao in 1844, had been in the Convent for 38 years, and was very highly esteemed by all who knew her. The funeral will probably take place this afternoon. An Express will be issued during the day announcing the hour of her interment.

Mr. G. A. Woodcock's appointment to act as Deputy Registrar and Accountant, Supreme Court, during the absence on leave of Mr. J. W. Lee Jones or until further notice, is gazetted.

The late Mr. Edmund Sharp of Hongkong left estate worth £11,406. He left the residuary of his estate to the Boys and Girls' Refuge Strangways, Manchester.

The Hongkong Jockey Club have decided to hold the annual race meeting on Tuesday, February 16th; Wednesday, February 17th and Thursday, February 18th. The list of events, comprising thirty races has now been issued, and entries will close on Saturday, January 16th.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to re-appoint, provisionally and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk C.M.G., to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council for a further period of six years, with effect from the 21st October, 1908.

The little Church at the Peak was filled to overflowing on the 12th inst. when Miss Z. Young, one of the nursing sisters of the Government Civil Hospital, was married to Mr. A. T. Walker, one of the assistant engineers in the Public Works Department. A reception was afterwards held at the residence of Mrs. Phelps, at Mount Kallet.

Inspector J. Kerr, of the Hongkong Police, and his wife, arrived in the Colony on Dec. 12th from Australia by the German steamer *Prins Waldemar*. The popular inspector, who has been on leave for the past nine months, was warmly welcomed back by his many friends, and by none more enthusiastically than the Police cricketers, who "pressed" him into the eleven who defeated the R.G.A. in the league match on Saturday. Inspector Kerr will probably take charge of No. 2 Police Station at Wanchai, Inspector Fenton, the present head, reverting to head quarters.

What was at first thought to be a fatal accident, but which fortunately did not prove so serious, took place on the 12th instant near the Praya East Hotel. Gunner W. Fay, of the 88th Company, R.G.A., was a passenger on a tram car and on reaching the hotel he got out of the car on the wrong side and as he jumped to the ground he was struck by a car travelling downwards which he did not notice approaching. He was thrown to the ground and injured about the head and face. He was conveyed to the Military Hospital and an Army doctor who examined him declared that his injuries were not of a serious nature.

There were two weddings at the Union Church on the 15th inst. Captain Warrack, of the China Navigation Company, was married to Miss Nellie Milne of Aberdeen. The bride was given away by Mr. A. Rodger, and Miss Eva and Miss Nan Rodgers attended her as bridesmaids, the best man being Mr. Kinnaid. A reception was afterwards held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rodger. The second marriage was that of Mr. Arthur C. Logan of Ohio, manager of the Hongkong branch of the Singer Sewing Machine Company, to Miss Margaret M. Ross, of Portland, Oregon. The bride, who was accompanied by Mrs. Bagnall of Yokohama, was given away by Dr. Wilder, American Consul. The Rev. C. H. Hickling conducted the ceremony. A reception was afterwards held at Claremont. The honeymoon is being spent at Macao.

His Excellency the Governor accompanied by the A.D.C., and Private Secretary and by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding and Captain Hoathcote, A.D.C., Sir Alexander Hosie, Colonel Darling, C.R.E., Colonel Chamier C.R.A., Colonel Bayard, Captain Murray Stewart D.A.A., and Q.M.G., and Captain Hart Synnot, D.A.A.G., paid a visit on Saturday afternoon to the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's establishment at Kowloon, where the party was received by Mr. J. W. Graham, who most courteously showed them over every part of the Works. His Excellency expressed astonishment at the extent and variety of the work undertaken by the Company, the efficiency of the supervision, the skill of the Chinese employees, and the up-to-date machinery and plant. After expressing his thanks to Mr. Mitchell for his courtesy, His Excellency and party left by launch to inspect the Eastern Defences and were received at Devil's Peak Pier by Captain Hutchinson, R.A.

CANTON.

[BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

December 10th.

LUK LAN CHING, THE NOTORIOUS PIRATE CHIEF.

The military authorities have reported to the Viceroy that Luk Lan Ching has proceeded to Kwangsi. His Excellency has cabled to the Kwangsi Governor to do all in his power to effect his capture.

CHURCH BURNT DOWN BY MOB.

It is reported that a telegram has been received here stating that the French Church at Yun-kong was burnt down yesterday and that the Christians have been obliged to fly for safety.

THE CAPITAL OF KWANGSI.

In July last the Central Government instructed the Governor of Kwangsi to remove the capital to Nanning on account of the city of Kweilin being badly situated for the effective control of the Province. Viceroy Chang also received instructions from Peking to assist the Kwangsi Governor to raise the necessary funds to effect the removal. Both these officials replied that the treasures of their respective provinces were empty and that it required an enormous sum of money to carry out the project. They begged that the matter be postponed and nothing more was heard of it. Owing however to the recent recrudescence of brigandage in the region the Central Government has again telegraphed to the Viceroy to consult his colleague on the question of removal. The telegram adds that funds must be raised and the capital transferred without any further delay. Some new taxation will be imposed in the Kwangtung Province before long and the Cantonese people will have to pay the piper for the transference of their neighbouring capital.

A TRICKY OFFICIAL AND THE STARVING BARBERS.

A few days ago the Barbers Guild presented a petition to the Taotai of Industries stating that many of their fraternity are now on the verge of starvation through being thrown out of employment on account of the State mourning. The petitioners begged the Taotai to ask the Government to grant a certain allowance for the maintenance of each barber during the mourning period of 100 days, if the Government should refuse their permission for the re-opening of their shops after 27 days mourning. In support of their request they mentioned that an allowance of \$2 to each barber had been made by the Government in Tientsin, Hankow and other places during the mourning period. The Taotai drew the attention of the Guild to the fact that their petition was not in proper order as it did not bear the signature of any person and requested the Guild to send a fresh petition signed by at least two leading members of the Guild. On receipt of the second petition the Taotai ordered the signatories to be arrested for their audacity in making such a proposal. They are now in the Nam Hoi prison and will be tried and punished when the mourning period is over.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The Directors of the Company have informed the public that a further 15 days' time is allowed to the shareholders who reside in Canton to pay the second instalment due on their shares. Shareholders who reside in any other part of China are requested to pay the second call not later than the 30th day of the 12th moon and those who are residing in foreign countries can pay the second call whenever they like because they are allowed to apply for an extension of time after the 1st moon next year.

December, 11th.

GAMBLING ON THE TONKIN FRONTIER.

It is reported that numerous gambling establishments are existing on the Tonkin frontier. Sometime ago Taotais Koong and Kwok of Lim-chow and Yam-chow Prefectures issued orders strictly prohibiting all officers and soldiers from crossing the frontier to gamble. Recently numerous labourers and traders of Tung Hing and Mat Yee have crossed over to gamble and there is now a perfect craze amongst the Chinese people to cross the frontier for the sole purpose of gambling. The people on the border of Lim-chow and Yam-chow are very poor

and on account of these gambling establishments being permitted to exist in the Tonkin frontier their money is daily pouring into a foreign country. Koong Taotai has been exhorting the merchants and the people there to abstain from crossing the frontier to gamble but has been unable to prevent them. He has deputed officials to interview the French authorities on the frontier, but the latter are said to have refused to interfere as there is no means of prohibiting gambling in the Tonkin frontier. The people of the Yam and Lim Prefectures will suffer seriously, Taotai Koong says and he has cabled to Viceroy Chang to communicate with the French Consul on the matter requesting him to forward the complaint to the Governor-General of Tonkin with a request that stern measures may be taken to suppress gambling.

December 15th.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The To Hang Company have placed four steam launches on the Canton-Fatshan run since the railway fares of the Fatshan line were increased. But the traffic is so great that a rival concern, called the Fook Sing Company, are now placing two launches on the same run.

The Board of Posts and Communications has cabled to the Canton-Hankow Railway Company refusing to sanction the building of the branch line of railway from Fatshan to Kongmoon.

ANOTHER BARBER PUNISHED.

A barber who was caught shaving a client in his shop in Shan Wah Street, Fatshan, the other day, was fined heavily. He was unable to pay the fine and was ordered to kneel outside the Police Station for four hours.

AN EX-MINISTER TO JAPAN.

Their Excellencies Chang Chi Tung and Yuan Shik Kai have sent telegrams to Yeong Shu, ex-minister to Japan, who is now in Canton, instructing him to return at once to Peking where he is wanted for pressing work in the Wai-wu-pu.

December 16th.

SMUGGLING OF AMMUNITION.

The Commissioner of the Koong Pak Customs near Macao has reported to the Viceroy that the Custom House officers there have seized a quantity of ammunition on board the small steamer *Cheong Kong*. The ammunition was packed in two cement barrels purporting to contain cement. They contained 8 packages of gunpowder weighing 111 catties and 20,000 percussion caps. The Captain of the vessel declared that he was ignorant of the contents of the barrels. Upon making further inquiries it was discovered that the ammunition was shipped by an arms store in Macao and consigned to the Yee Shing shop in To Huk Street in the town of Kwonghoi near the Sunning City. The Viceroy immediately cabled instructions to the Sunning Magistrate to arrest the proprietor and the managers of the Yee Shing shop and have them tried and punished. Yesterday His Excellency received a cablegram from the Sunning Magistrate saying that upon receipt of the Viceroy's telegram he immediately went personally to To Huk Street in Kwong Hoi to investigate the matter but was unable to find any shop corresponding to the name given by the Viceroy. However, he subsequently discovered a grocer's shop in that street, named Hop Shing, and upon making inquiries the inmates informed him that during a clan fight between the Chan and Ng families which occurred sometime ago the Hop Shing shop imported a quantity of fire arms for one of the belligerent parties, whereupon he caused the grocer's shop to be searched and two rifles, one revolver, 150 cartridges and a box of percussion caps were discovered. He has arrested the master and seized the shop.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

It is reported that during the last three or four weeks the Canton-Hankow Railway Company have collected over \$5,000,000, due on the second instalment of the shares. This sudden change is attributed to the decision recently made by the Central Government to raise funds from foreign countries for the construction of the Hunan and Hupeh sections of the line and has acted as an impetus on the shareholders of the Kwangtung section of the Railway. This will, no doubt, set operations in full swing here.

December 17th.

"MARTYRS" EXECUTED.

The two reformers, Yim Kwok Tung and Kot Him, who, while under arrest, wrote their confession, were executed at 7 a.m. yesterday. The day previous to their execution they were photographed in Admiral Li Tsun's Yamen and certain questions were put to them. Kot Him remarked that the Chinese know of a Washington who succeeded, and will now know of Washingtons who had failed. He unfortunately was one of them, he said.

Two men were arrested and later deported to their native village in Hunan by Admiral Li who is reported to have said that he would not take account of what the prisoners had divulged concerning those alleged to be implicated, many of whom were high officials, as he was afraid that this information was unreliable and prompted by a spirit of revenge.

MACAO BOUNDARY QUESTION.

A few months ago the Viceroy instructed a Magistrate to make investigations relative to the dates and rights, if any, on which the Portuguese Government had encroached on Chinese territory in the vicinity of Macao. Particulars were needed for the purpose of discussing the Macao boundary question with the Portuguese Government and demanding the return of those places. It is reported that the Magistrate has sent a report to the Viceroy stating that he has discovered that the following places represent encroachments by the Portuguese Government:—

1. Green Island is situated between Macao and Wan Chai and on the North of the Sea. The Island is connected with Chin Shan. During the 15th and 16th year of Kwang Su the Portuguese made a new road leading up to the Island and subsequently treated the Island as Portuguese territory.

2. Mong Ha Kok and Loong Tin Villages were places outside the Macao boundary. China formerly established military guard houses and had forts in those places, which were included in the Portuguese territory by the Portuguese in the 1st year of Kwang Su. In the 13th year of Kwang Su Governor Wu was deputed to settle the Macao boundary question but, owing to some urgent Government affairs, it was put off, and in the 24th year of Kwang Su these two places were claimed as Portuguese territory.

3. Kwo Lo Wan is an important place and forms the door of Macao, giving access to the Sea. To the left of Kwo Lo Wan is Kan O, and to the right is Wang Kam. Kwo Lo Wan itself is several times larger than Macao. The Koong Pok Customs formerly had launches and cruisers on patrol there to prevent smuggling. In the 1st year of Kwang Su the Portuguese Government placed soldiers at Kwo Lo Wan and also in Lai Chi Wan and Shek O and annexed the territory. Afterwards they also administered and controlled the territory of Wan Chai and Ngan Hang. These places have still Chinese guard houses and forts as a proof that they were Chinese territory.

BIG GOVERNMENT ORDER.

The Viceroy has given instructions to the Bureau of Local Affairs to purchase several steam dredgers to dredge certain inland rivers so as to prevent a repetition of floods such as those that took place recently which were so disastrous to life and property.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE INSTALLATION.

The installation of officers of St. John's Lodge, S.C., took place on the 12th instant at the Masonic Hall and was followed by the usual banquet which was regarded as one of the most successful held this season. The installation ceremony was conducted by the Right Wor. D.G.M. Bro. Dr. Jordan and the following officers were installed:—Right Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. G. Sim; Immediate Past Master, Wor. Bro. H. Jilling; Wor. Senior Warden, Bro. A. Course; Wor. Junior Warden, Bro. W. Robertson; Treasurer, Bro. A. Ritchie; Chaplain, Bro. E. R. Kiff; Secretary, Bro. W. H. T. Beanas; Organist, Bro. W. Anderson; Senior Deacon, Bro. W. Glendenning; Junior Deacon, Bro. J. Devney; Director of Ceremonies, Bro. J. Craik; Inner Guard, Bro. F. Hoggard; First Steward, Bro. G. Watt; Second Steward, Bro. S. J. R. Bally; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

THE S.S. "FATSHAN" AFFAIR.

Our Canton correspondent writes:—

The Chinese insist that a fresh inquiry should take place at the British Consulate in this matter. This will no doubt be acceded to if the application is made officially, provided also that important new evidence is forthcoming. The Chinese Press say that according to international law the case should be tried by the British Court as the incident occurred on a British vessel. This however does not apply to China, as foreigners enjoy the privilege of extraterritoriality in China.

The "Yeong Shing Po" publishes an article to-day saying that public anger has been roused through the British Consul shifting his responsibility on to other shoulders in the *Fatshan* incident. The paper further states that the members of the Yau Tin Ying theatrical troupe have composed a song on the incident and have deputed many members of the troupe to sing it on board the passenger junks plying between Canton and inland waters (about 60 of these vessels leave Canton every day) and in the different villages up-country, and it is further stated that the members of the troupe are having grand receptions on board the junks and at the villages. Free passage tickets, tea cakes and wine are offered to the singers for their patriotic action and feelings wherever they go.

The Self-Government Association are still agitating. They have printed many of the hostile speeches made in connection with the affair and are now circulating them all over the province. Anti-foreign feeling is daily increasing and spreading and, if the Foreign Governments do not unite in taking prompt steps to crush it now, there will be serious trouble before long.

The Chinese have composed many songs on the s.s. *Fatshan* incident and the following is a translation of one sung in *Fatshan* by a popular singer named Loong Chow Ng:—

"Methinks Chinese are classed lower than ants, A kick sends him to another world. For the killing of two missionaries in Shantung.

The Germans got a Bay, and apologies mines and railways galore are ceded. A whole province is the price of two lives. Why is Ho Tsoi Yin's case left in oblivion? Sang Kai Chi's guilty of murder! The case being proved, why is he set free? How sorrowful to think of such an unbearable thing!

Stir up brethren or we shall become as insignificant as a grain of sand."

Note—Sang Kai Chai, meaning "young cock," is the nickname of the watchman C. Noronha.

The British Consul-General has sent a Chinese translation of the whole proceedings in this matter to Viceroy Chang and His Excellency has instructed the Superintendent of Police to have the document published in all the local papers. This is being done in instalments, as it is too long to be printed in one issue.

I mentioned in several of my previous letters that the principal instigators of the present anti-foreign movement are the members of the Self-Government Association. The prominent members of this Society hold frequent meetings and discuss plans of action to keep the anti-foreign feeling going. The chief promoter of the Self-Government Association is well-known to everybody. He is one of the gentry of Ho-Nam and has identified himself with all the anti-foreign movements that have from time to time occurred in the last few years. He was the man who convened meetings on the West River patrol question, was again a prominent figure in the *Paul Beau* incident, and is now pulling the strings in the *Fatshan* affair.

The publication of the full text of the proceedings at the British Consular Court should serve to correct the misrepresentations previously published in the Chinese papers, and should close the incident. I am afraid, however that nothing short of strong representations will stop the Self-Government Society from keeping the present agitation alive as it is their avowed intention to boycott Messrs. Butterfield and Swire.

If this Association and its champions are allowed to continue their bragging, there may be serious developments as the active members

belong to the most anti-foreign element in Canton.

I understand that the Viceroy has taken steps to stop the local papers from misrepresenting the attitude of the British Consul-General. A satisfactory proclamation was issued yesterday by Viceroy Chang stopping merchants and the local papers from circulating false rumours in connection with the incident. The proclamation also states that the British Consul-General acted in a perfectly correct manner and in accordance with Treaty Regulations.

A new trial has been arranged to take place at the Portuguese Consulate, but there is no fresh evidence to be produced.

Viceroy Chang has received a petition from the Nam-Hoi Magistrate stating that the relations of the deceased have filed a statement of complaint at his yamen in this matter and begged him to communicate with the British Consul to fix a day for a fresh joint inquiry into the case and requesting the British Consul to summon all the defendant's witnesses to appear on the day of the trial.

His Excellency replied as follows:—"I have noted the contents of your petition. I have received a dispatch from the British Consul-General in connection with this matter in which he stated that the previous inquiry was only a preliminary step. Noronha being a Portuguese subject, the trial must be held at the Portuguese Consulate. The British Consul acted within the limits of his power in this matter and merely offered his assistance in this case. I have already forwarded a dispatch to the Portuguese Consul requesting him to fix a date for a joint investigation. I request you to order the relations of the deceased to lay a case before the Portuguese Consul. I further instruct you to accompany the witnesses to the Portuguese Consulate on the day of the trial and to watch the case and see that the trial is fair. I also instruct the Provincial Judge to see that all my instructions in the matter are carried out in a proper manner.

It was believed that the Viceroy's sound proclamation to which I have previously referred would have stopped all comment pending the new trial at the Portuguese Consulate. But the ringleader referred to in a previous article is agitating more than ever and has convened a meeting for to-day. If this man is not brought to book early I am afraid that the trouble is far from ended. He is a perfect anti-foreign crank, and is known by that nick-name amongst foreigners.

The following is a translation of a circular distributed by the Self-Government Association:—

"The Viceroy has issued a proclamation stating that the British Consul had done all in his power and confined his action within the limits of his jurisdiction in the case in which a foreign member of the crew of the steamer *Fatshan* kicked a Chinese to death; that the British Consul acted fairly and the proceedings were as regular as could be, and that he never attempted to shift his responsibility.

"We have made inquiries and find that according to the decision of the Hague Conference in 1898 Article 32, section 2, the crew of a vessel after being registered on the ship's articles is under the jurisdiction of the nation to which that vessel belongs, and the steamer is responsible for the safety of passengers and goods. Now a Chinese was kicked to death on board of the steamer *Fatshan* which is a British vessel owned by Butterfield and Swire. The Chinese laws have not been modernized and the Chinese Government has no jurisdiction over foreigners. The British Consul's duty is, of course, to protect British trade, but he undertook the responsibility to decide this case in a just manner; consequently he could not shift his responsibilities of public justice on to others. The *Fatshan* is a British steamer, therefore it was perfectly within the British Consul's jurisdiction to try the case and the power of giving a fair and impartial decision in the matter rests entirely with him. The laws governing happenings at sea are different from those applied on a Concession. A man being kicked to death on a steamer by a member of the crew and no redress being given cannot be tolerated. Canton and Hongkong are the principal doors of traffic (in the South) and people are obliged to use this way. Life is

an important thing. All our brethren should thoroughly investigate this matter. We have decided to hold a big meeting at the association to-day and all our brethren are invited to attend the same."

The meeting of the Self-Government Association, to which I alluded in my previous correspondence, took place at the Wah Lum Temple, the Association's head-quarters, yesterday at noon. There was a great concourse of people. Many short inflammatory speeches were made condemning the British Consul's decision in the *Fatshan* incident. The speakers assured the people that the decision of the Portuguese Consul in the new trial which will take place at that Consulate would be exactly the same as that of the British Consul. They advocated the boycotting of the s.s. *Fatshan* and wondered why the people still have the audacity to travel by that steamer and it was said that the cars of those daring to travel by that steamer would be cut off!

The principal agitators held a private meeting at which a certain prominent Hongkong resident strongly urged them to drop the matter as it would lead them into trouble. Subsequently the Honam man who is the principal member of the Association telephoned at about 2 p.m. to the Association to stop all propaganda until the issue of the new trial. None of the speeches made at the meeting were published in any of the local papers to-day.

A SOLDIER'S DEATH.

The inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of L. Corpl. Smith of the Buffs who died from self-inflicted injuries on the 27th ult., was resumed at the Magistracy on Dec. 11 before Mr. J. H. Kemp.

Sergt. Webb, on being recalled, said there was nobody near the deceased when he first saw him.

Private Marsh stated that on the evening of the 27th ult., deceased asked him for the loan of his cap. Deceased took the cap and as he went out he said "Tell Corporal Wade there he a piece of foolscap on my table." Witness knew the deceased for five years. He was always on good terms with him and nobody had a grudge against him. It was a common thing for one man to borrow another's cap.

L. Corpl. Barker, who shared the same room with deceased, said he went out about 9 p.m., leaving Marsh in bed. When he returned at ten Marsh was still in bed. Witness heard nothing about borrowing a cap. Deceased was on good terms with everybody.

Private Dyer, who occupied the room next to that occupied by deceased, spoke to seeing L. Corpl. Smith leave his room on the night in question. He had known deceased for four years. The razor produced belonged to deceased. This affair was a great surprise to witness who was unaware of deceased being worried over his private affairs. Deceased never complained of being overworked. He had a great deal of work.

Private Tozer said he saw deceased going out on the night in question. Deceased told him to tell Corporal Wade that he would find a sheet of foolscap on his table, and added "I'm off to fix up the messing." Witness knew no reason for the suicide. Deceased was on the best of terms with everybody.

His Worship remarked that there was no reason shown why deceased should commit suicide, but all the evidence pointed to suicide. There might have been some suspicion against the man whose cap was found beside him but they were told it was quite a common practice among soldiers to borrow each others caps.

The foreman (Mr. Sinclair) said the jury were of opinion that death was due to hemorrhage from a wound in the throat and that the wound was self-inflicted. There was nothing to show ill feeling on the part of anyone on whom suspicion would be likely to rest.

Ten thousand pesos' worth of opium was seized the other Sunday morning on board the U. S. cruiser *Charleston* lying off Manila behind the breakwater. It was found in possession of a Filipino named Arneocio, who, on arrest, claimed to be a Filipino laundryman from Cavite, where he lives. Twenty-five kilos of the drug, valued at P400 per kilo, are now in possession of the authorities and it is expected that still further arrests will be made.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Dec. 17th in the Council Chamber.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

H. E. MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B., A.C.D., (General Officer Commanding).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES, K.C., (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G., (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY, (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. H. A. W. SLADE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minute, No. 70, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 20) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

NEW BYELAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY Sir, I beg to move that the byelaws under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, relating to bakehouses, dairies and the importation and inspection of animals, be approved by this Council.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Before we proceed with the business of the day I wish to inform the Council that on the occasion of the King's Birthday I sent a telegram to England as is customary in many colonies in the following terms: "On behalf of Colony express loyalty to His Majesty the King anniversary of birthday. Wishing you long life and health." I received by the last mail the following reply from the Secretary of State: "I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 9th instant expressing on behalf of the community of Hongkong their loyalty to His Majesty and their good wishes on the occasion of his birthday. The telegram has been laid before the King and I am commanded by His Majesty to convey to you and to the people of Hongkong His Majesty's sincere thanks for your loyal message which he has received with much pleasure."

THE TRAMWAYS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move that the Council resolve itself into Committee to consider the third order of the day the Bill entitled an Ordinance for authorising the construction of a tramway within the Colony of Hongkong. I understand, Sir, that a petition has been presented to the Council in respect of this Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The petition signed by the Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong, on behalf of the Roman Catholic community against the proposed route of the projected tramway was read.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I beg to move that the petitioners be allowed to appear by Counsel, as prayed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, *pro forma*, I second that motion.

This was agreed to, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., the Right Reverend Bishop Pozzoni, and Mr. A. Denison, architect, entered the Chamber.

HIS EXCELLENCY The petition presented on behalf of the Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong has been read to the Council. We shall be glad to hear you speak in this Council on it.

SIR HENRY BERKELEY—May it please your Excellency and gentlemen of the Legislative Council. I appear by gracious permission of your honourable Body in support of the petition which has been presented by the Right Reverend Bishop Pozzoni on behalf of the Roman Catholic community of this colony. I ask your permission to refer to the petition. The second paragraph runs as follows:—

"2. The route of the said Tramway is, your Petitioner is informed, proposed to be as marked in blue lines on the plan instead of the route marked on the said plan in red lines as originally proposed."

Your Excellency will see from that plan the route as originally proposed and as we respectfully submit, it should continue. That is marked in red. The route as now proposed is delineated in blue. If you follow the blue line you will come to where the line passes up Glenealy Valley for a considerable distance. It is carried over the gully on a proposed steel trestle for a viaduct some 50 feet in height. It is the carriage of the tram cars over this steel trestle viaduct that we oppose and it is that part of the proposed route marked in blue we ask the Committee to reject. It is probably within the personal knowledge of members of this Committee that great noise is occasioned by trains or trams passing over a steel trestle bridge, and the longer the bridge and the higher the viaduct the greater the noise caused by the increased vibration. The route marked in red would carry the line all the way on solid ground. There would be no vibration to speak of and there would be little or no noise, nothing at all events that could be legitimately complained of. Part of it would pass the Cathedral and the buildings which the Bishop desires to protect and keep in the quietness they have so long enjoyed. It could occupy very small space superficially and it could be adequately protected from the danger of people falling over it by railings which need not be in any way an offence to artistic feeling, and might be of such an ornamental character as to adorn the Gardens. The third paragraph of the petition, Sir, states that the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is the principal place of worship of the Roman Catholic community of Hongkong and is situated on the east side of the Public Gardens. The fourth paragraph is that divine service or other religious observances take place daily in the Cathedral. I ask permission to emphasise the word daily. On that point you will hear the evidence of the Bishop, who will speak more in detail as to the nature of these religious observances for which in the highest degree it is essential to have quietness. The fifth paragraph of the petition says as much. It proceeds: It is essential to the due and reverend performance of such services and observances that there should be at such times an absolute absence of noise in such Cathedral and in the immediate neighbourhood thereof.

In addition I am instructed to mention a matter that was omitted from the petition, and that is that immediately adjoining the Cathedral is a mission school where persons are trained for the priesthood. The noises, if noises there will be, and I think there will, is a matter upon which the committee can make up its mind after hearing Mr. Denison, but it requires no evidence to convince them that cars passing over a viaduct of this kind must make a most distracting noise, and that in the opinion of the committee must prove dislocating to the teaching in the school. Further, Sir, I am instructed to call the attention of your honourable body to this fact which has been omitted from the petition: It seems that in proximity to the Cathedral and to this proposed viaduct there are a number of houses occupied by tenants of the mission. If the tramway passes along this viaduct it will pass close to and slightly above these houses with the result that the interiors of these houses will be in full view of people passing in the tram. The trams, as I have just mentioned, not only run by day but by night, so that if the tram line is

built as projected there will be an invasion of the privacy of the occupiers of these houses. Such an invasion can only be guarded against by closing windows which would, in a climate such as this, be impracticable in summer. The result would be if the tram is built as projected a serious depreciation in the value of the property. That must weigh with the members of the committee as well as the disturbance of the quietude which has for many years reigned in the precincts of the Cathedral. Sir, I would emphasise the fact that this petition is made on behalf of a large number of persons, over 7,000 persons in this community. It may be regarded, therefore, as a petition largely signed. The prayer of the petition is that the proposed route of the said tramway as marked in blue lines on the said plan be not approved by this committee. We do not presume to suggest that the route marked in red be approved. We do not presume to say how you should act. We only respectfully press the point that the route marked in blue with reference to the tram passing over a trestle bridge near the Cathedral should not be allowed. If you turn to the Bill you will find that this matter is dealt with in clause three, construction and route of the railway. It is as follows:—(Quotes). We don't wish the tramway to be constructed in accordance with the plan which has been published. We desire it to be altered and not to be approved so far as they show the route in blue line. . . Sir, the committee will observe by the wording of the proviso that it was contemplated there might be deviation from the plan as deposited. (Quotes). This will not necessitate any redrawing of the plans and if your Excellency expresses the desire they must be altered—they must be altered in accordance with the opinion of the committee. I now propose with your permission to call the Bishop before you.

Bishop Pozzoni was then sworn and examined by Sir Henry Berkeley.

What is your name?—Domenico Pozzoni.

What office do you hold?—The title is Bishop of Timor and the office is Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong.

The principal church of the Roman Catholic Community is situated?—About fifty feet above Caine Road west of the Public Gardens.

Is it correctly shown in the plans?—Yes.

When did you come here?—In 1886.

Where was the Cathedral at that time?—It was then in Wellington Street.

When was it removed from Wellington Street?—About 18 months after my arrival in Hongkong.

Why was it removed from Wellington Street?—Because the place became so noisy that our Catholic services could not be carried on with the necessary peace and quietude, especially such services as holy mass and most especially the confessional. Just now at the Cathedral when coolies are making noises outside we are obliged to send an assistant outside to stop them.

How long is it since the Cathedral was in its present site?—Services began in July 1886.

Twenty-two years ago?—Yes.

During that time have you enjoyed quietude?—Yes.

Nothing to interrupt or disturb your services except occasional raucous voiced coolies to whom you promptly despatched an assistant?—Yes.

Have you a mission school?—Yes.

Where is it?—Near the Cathedral tower.

What kind of a school is it?—It is for those who desire to become missionary priests, and the curriculum includes theology and philosophy.

Quietude is required for such study?—Yes.

Do the Church Body own some house near?—Yes.

Are they occupied by tenants?—Yes.

Examined by the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

In what part of the Cathedral is the confessional held?—Sometimes near the altar and sometimes near the door. Sometimes all over the Cathedral.

Are they conducted in that part of the building nearest the tramway?—If there are crowds they go near to the door. If there is not a crowd they go near the altar.

As a rule they are conducted at the other end of the Cathedral?—We have no particular place. Some like to make their confession near the door, and the priest has to go to the door with

them. Some like to go near the altar and the priest must be ready to go there. Here we have several nationalities. Generally the Chinese like to be near the door. All the foreign European missionaries and myself speak Chinese very slowly and we need quietness in order to understand what is being said, and in order to make ourselves understood.

Mr. Albert Denison was then called, and examined by SIR HENRY BERKELEY:

What is your profession?—I am a civil engineer.

Are you practising in this Colony?—Yes.

Have you examined and reported upon the line of tramway marked on the plan?—Yes.

I see by the plan that for some distance of its length the tramway carries a steel trestle viaduct; is that so?—That is so.

That is what is proposed?—Yes.

In places about how high?—About 50 feet high.

What is the juxtaposition of that trestle viaduct and the cathedral?—It faces directly in front of the principal entrance.

About how far away?—Some 80 yards.

Can you say from your own knowledge whether a car passing over a steel iron structure of the kind proposed will not make a noise? If so what character of noise?—It will make a rattling noise.

A disturbing noise?—A very loud noise at that distance. When a train passes over the Forth bridge anywhere within a mile you can hear it distinctly.

The effect of the steel bridge makes the sound louder?—Yes.

This line is one which the cars are to be pulled up by pulleys?—Yes.

Will any noise come from these?—Yes.

And those trams or pulleys passing over the trestle bridge will make a considerable noise, which will be heard at the cathedral?—Distinctly.

They must be heard at the cathedral?—Yes.

In your opinion would they make sufficient noise to distract the attention of persons in the cathedral?—I should think so.

Will this noise be continuous?—As long as the cars are running the vibration of the trestle caused by the rope running over the pulleys will be continuous.

Even if the car has passed the cathedral there will be a noise?—With the up car there will be no noise, but with the down car there will be a noise until it stops at the bottom.

Have you ever had any personal experience beyond the Forth bridge of noises made by cars passing over a small trestle bridge?—Yes, in the Isle of Wight there is a line of railway carried over a similar trestle to this, which is about 30 feet high. Two people travelling in a carriage on this line could not hear each other speaking on account of the noise made.

Do you know the houses belonging to the Mission in the vicinity?—Yes.

What would be the effect, as far as their privacy goes, if the line projected in blue is adopted?—After sunset they would have to close their shutters.

Why?—Because anyone passing in trams could look straight in through the bedroom windows. The line is only about 60 feet away, and 20 feet above.

If the tramway were constructed on the route marked in red, would the objection as far as noise is concerned be done away with?—Yes.

And what about the privacy?—It would not be affected.

You see no objection I understand, then, to the original alternative route?—No.

Why would there be little or no noise in that event?—Because the rails would be laid on solid ground, and there would be no vibration. The line would be straight and would obviate the necessity for these curves and the pulleys which accentuate the noise.

The line marked in red would necessitate cutting through the gardens?—Yes.

Could such cutting be made adequately without disfiguring the gardens?—Yes.

You are, in the course of your profession, called upon frequently to value property here?—Yes.

Will you state what, in your opinion, would be the effect upon the capital value of this church property let to tenants if the line were built as projected on blue?—I should think the value

would be very much less, and there would be some difficulty in getting tenants.

Would there be any greater cost in pursuing the route in red; the tunnel or cutting Versus the steel trestle iron bridge?—I have not gone into it carefully, but I shouldn't think there would be very much difference. I should say, if anything, the cutting would be cheaper.

A steel trestle viaduct is very costly?—It is rather expensive.

If the question of cost is material, do I understand you to express an opinion that there would be no greater cost on the red route?—Yes.

By the Hon. Mr. POLLOCK:

Can you suggest, Mr. Denison, any method for carrying a tram along the proposed blue route other than the steel trestle viaduct which would cause less noise?—Concrete arches might be erected.

Do you think that would be more expensive?—I think it would be much more expensive.

By HIS EXCELLENCY:

Would the noise still be so great as to inconvenience people in the cathedral?—Yes, your Excellency. I think the pulleys alone would be sufficient to inconvenience them. Even on the present tramway the noise is rather excessive.

By the ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Would the noise on the proposed tramway be greater than that caused by the electric trams in the streets?—Yes.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY:

Are you a member of the Union Church, Mr. Denison?—No.

Have you ever attended divine service there?—Yes.

Did you suffer any inconvenience from the noise of the pulleys on the Peak tramway?—I don't remember doing so, but the line there is straight, and on the solid.

Do you know the distance between the Union Church building and the central line of the Peak tramway?—I should say about 30 or 40 feet.

And the distance in this case is said to be 80 yards?

Sir HENRY BERKELEY—240 feet from the cathedral, and 60 feet from the houses.

By Sir HENRY BERKELEY:

The Peak tramway at that part passes over the street?—Yes, but the cars just there travel very slowly. The car is opposite the compressor, so there is scarcely any noise.

The Union Church is a Protestant Church, isn't it?—Yes.

And there are no masses and confessions?—No.

By the Hon. Mr. SLADE:

With regard to the privacy, couldn't that objection be easily obviated by a screen or barricade run up alongside the line to prevent people in cars looking into those houses?—Yes.

By the Hon. Mr. HEWETT:

But that would block out a good deal of the view of the gardens?—Yes.

You stated just now that you thought a cutting would be cheaper than trestles. Can you give the committee any idea of the difference between the trestle and the tunnel scheme?—I have not gone into it.

By the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Your firm, Mr. Denison, were the original engineers engaged on this scheme, were they not?—Yes.

And the alignment shown on that plan on red is the alignment originally proposed by you, I think?—Yes.

And that was absolutely refused by Sir Matthew Nathan when he was governor, was it not?—I don't know. I was not here at the time.

You know you were required to prepare another scheme giving a different route?—No, I understand the route was the same. As a matter of fact the route was deviated to some extent.

You referred to the noise a train makes in passing such a bridge as the Forth bridge: that is rather an exaggerated comparison is it not? A train would make much more noise than a tramcar?—Eight carriages will make more noise than one.

And the weight of carriages will be immensely greater than a tramcar? Yes, I should say a train would be slightly heavier. But in this case there is not only the carriage wheels, but pulleys.

You don't anticipate hearing this noise a mile off? No, but if the line was half a mile away it would make a very loud noise in the cathedral.

You think it would be heard half a mile away?—Yes.

As regards the privacy of the houses, is there not a path in the gardens at the present time just about on a level with the principal rooms in these houses?—Yes, but it is almost entirely hidden by trees.

Wouldn't the trees interpose between the tramway and the houses quite as much as between the path and the houses?—No, I think to make the tramway you will have to cut down these trees.

You agree that the pathway overlooks the houses to at least as great an extent as the tramway would?—I don't think so. A certain number of trees must be cut down to make the tramway.

All the trees are between the pathway and the houses, and the tramway will be on the further side of the pathway from the houses, so that if the trees interpose between the pathway and the houses they must interpose between the tramway and the houses?—To a certain extent.

Anybody could stand in that pathway and look into the houses as much as they pleased?—Yes.

Whereas on the tramway the tram would whisk them past at a considerable rate?—That is so.

And the tramway will also be at a greater elevation than the pathway, so the principal view passengers will get will be at the tops of these houses?—I think you said just now that the pathway was higher than the tramway.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—No, the tramway is higher than the pathway.

Mr. DENISON—And you get a better view of the bedrooms.

Sir HENRY BERKELEY—Your Excellency, the first observation I will make is that no evidence has been called here to support the suggestions of the Director of Public Works, and I take it that the evidence of Mr. Denison makes it clear that as far as the privacy of these houses goes, they will be open to the view of persons in the trams every day; and trams will be passing to and fro every ten minutes or quarter of an hour. The evidence of Mr. Denison seems to me to indicate that it must be necessary for the destruction of any such screen as is provided by the trees now growing along the proposed line of route. It is not altogether fair for the case of the petitioner that the Director of Public Works should take part in the discussion and vote after dragging in evidence, without being cross-examined. He gives an expression of his opinion, but there is no evidence of it before the committee and it ought not to have weight against the opinion of an expert of equal standing in the profession to himself, although not an official. The evidence of Mr. Denison on the point that the passing of the tramline along the blue route must expose the inhabitants of these houses is based on common sense. The evidence of the Director of Public Works is based on the assumption, unwarranted by the evidence before the committee, that a number of trees will be left as a screen between the cars and the houses. I need hardly remind the committee that in dealing with an application of this kind they should approach it with a judicial mind. The committee will consider the suggestions made, based only on the evidence before it, and it will not be in any way swayed or influenced by any suggestions not based upon the evidence. I am submitting to the committee that the suggestions shadowed in the cross-examination of the Director of Public Works are based on assumption, and have no evidence to support them. Sir, I would also ask the committee not to be influenced by what I cannot help describing as an unfortunate allusion by the Director of Public Works to our late Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan. This committee is not to decide a question which affects deeply the feelings of 7,000 of the inhabitants of this Colony by any conceived notions of Sir Matthew Nathan on this point. Because Sir Matthew Nathan disapproved of this particular route, it is not to say that this committee will disapprove of it. Sir, it is hardly fair for the Director of Public Works to refer to the respected name of our

former highly esteemed Governor, and I confidently believe, when you come to the consideration of this petition, that the committee will not in any way consider what may have been the opinion of some former governor, because, if Sir Matthew Nathan had sat to hear this petition he would not have changed his mind. Sir, I will pass from that, because I have called it what I believe it to be, an inadvertence. It was an unfortunate allusion to make to a committee having a majority of officials, and a very unhappy one for the feelings of those who come before the committee, but I feel certain it will not affect the official mind. Besides, I trust your Excellency will recollect, and I am sure you will, that this is a private Bill. The committee will not vote upon this Bill as if it was an important public measure. The allusion, I suppose, was made for some purpose; I take it that one of the standing in the Council of the Director of Public Works would not make an allusion like that without some object; therefore I am bound to comment upon it. I can only suppose that he asked that question for a purpose, the object being to impress the committee unfavourably, so I appeal to members to decide this question altogether apart from any person's opinion. Sir, I ask the committee to remember the salient facts. The Bishop has told us that the cathedral was removed to its present site for the purpose of securing that which will be taken from worshippers if the railway passes over this present bridge, namely, peace and quietness in observance of religious performances. He told us that when he first came here 22 years ago the cathedral was in Wellington Street, but as the town increased the noise became distracting, and they removed to the place where they now are. We have been on the present site for 22 years, and I do appeal to you to preserve to us that which we have had for 22 years unless there are any exigent public reasons why it should be taken away. We appeal to the committee for considerate treatment when a scheme is proposed which will deprive us of that, and a scheme which is in no sense necessary for the undertaking projected. We are only opposed to that portion of the tramway which it is proposed to carry over the trestle bridge. If there were no other way of going to the Peak except over that trestle bridge I should be silent, but when there is an alternative route which will give us the quiet that is desired, and leave us in peace, I do ask that that route should be insisted upon. This is a private undertaking for the purpose of putting money into the pockets of those promoting the tramway; it is a speculation, nothing more or less. It will be useful to the public no doubt, but still it is a private speculation, and absolutely a matter of pounds, shillings and pence. I say you ought not to disturb the peace, quiet and calm which should reign, and which hitherto has reigned in this vicinity, and I appeal finally to the committee not to do so, because if you do what is proposed to be done we are absolutely left without a remedy. We could not get compensation, because the work was authorised by the legislature. I thank you gentlemen of the committee for hearing me, I trust that the reasons I have mentioned may be deemed by you sufficient to warrant your coming to the conclusion that the route as proposed ought not to be assented to.

Counsel and the witnesses then withdrew.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, The motion before the Council refers to a bill which was introduced a good many years ago. The Council is not in committee as was supposed by the learned gentleman who has just left. The motion is whether we shall go into committee or refer the Bill to the Law Committee. We are still in Council. The Bill was introduced several years ago under circumstances which are very different to those which exist to-day. The differences are these: When the proposal was first made it was understood that the tramway would be competitive with the one already existing. Since then I understand an amalgamation has taken place. Secondly, it was proposed that it should traverse a different route to that suggested to-day. In the third place, since this bill passed its second reading it had been very considerably altered in many details. It is therefore, I think, permissible to discuss the general principles on this

motion to go into committee. I think it is better to discuss it now than on the third reading, since, if we passed this motion, learned members of the Law Committee would be nullified when they came to deal with it. We have also to consider the petition laid before the Council to-day, and spoken to by the learned counsel who has just left the room. I propose further to say a word or two with regard to my position in regard to this bill. It appears to me that the principle involved in this bill is one, if I may so express it, of aesthetics against utility. If it is clearly understood by this Council that the community consider this tramway is necessary for the business and for the general purposes of the colony no doubt this private bill will be put through. If, on the other hand, it is considered not to be so, we must bear in mind that one of the most beautiful parts of the island will be disfigured by the carrying out of the project. I should regret extremely from that point of view to see a tramway on fifty feet trestles carried through the Glenealy Valley, but Hongkong does not depend for its prosperity on its scenery, or we should not hear so much of trade depression. Residents generally come here for other purposes than to view the scenery, so it remains for us to say whether or not the tramway is really required for the convenience and business of the colony. No doubt many of the unofficial members will be able to reflect opinions which are held in the community and as this is a private bill and has been much altered since it passed its second reading all members of the council will be able to vote upon it entirely unfettered, and to give their own personal opinion as to whether or not it should be carried through. The bill is a very long one and there are connected with it various plans which require a good deal of study, and which have not been reproduced to the council, and I therefore do not propose to put the motion to the vote to-day but to adjourn this debate after those who wish to speak have done so until our next meeting. As regards the petition to which we have just listened, it was perhaps premature to have heard that on the motion now before the Council. It should rather, I think, have come after the Council goes into committee to discuss the second clause of the Bill which deals with the question which route the tram should take. The point which we now have to consider is the general principle of the bill as to whether or not there should be a tramway. It will be time enough to consider in committee when we come to clause two whether this route in red which has been alluded to involves the cutting off of a considerable portion of the Public Gardens and some exceedingly deep cuttings which—I speak under correction—I think will be something like 40 or 60 feet deep and which will require considerable cutting away over the slope of the embankment. I understand that the substitution for them of a tunnel is not from an engineering point of view possible because in order not to kill the trees it would have to pass at a greater depth than 15 feet; and 15 feet is the minimum depth of grading they could pass. The line in blue has been selected in the alternative as inflicting least injury on the Public Gardens but as I have said these questions as to details of the different routes more properly belong to the discussion on clause three, if we agree to the general principle of having this tramway. The institution of this scheme I believe interfered with the extension of the existing tramway which would otherwise have been carried down to Queen's Road, and I think I am right in saying that arrangements had practically been completed with the Military Authorities for the acquisition of certain lands belonging to them required for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. HEWITT—Your Excellency—You spoke just now of having a discussion this afternoon as to the working of this Bill on the motion to go into committee and afterwards I understood you to say we should have a discussion at next meeting. Would it not be better to hold over the whole discussion until next week? My suggestion for doing that is the statement made by counsel, and as the remarks made by yourself and by counsel are distinctly of an educational nature I think it would be very much to the advantage of unofficial members of the Council if we have a

further opportunity of considering them and also of finding out current opinion as the bill has not been discussed for over a year.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I will be glad to adjourn the discussion until next meeting.

SMALL DEBT COURT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to empower a Magistrate to hold a Small Debt Court in the New Territories and to regulate the proceedings in relation thereto.—In doing so, he said—I have nothing further to say with regard to it, Sir, except that in the preliminary title the word debt should read "debts."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the Council go into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Magistrates Ordinance 1890 and to effect certain other amendments in the Criminal Law.

In doing so, he said—With reference, Sir, to this order it will be in the recollection of the committee that at the last meeting two of the clauses stood adjourned for consideration, the first of which is the clause relating to stocks. It was pointed out at that time, Sir, by the hon. and learned member opposite having regard to the phraseology proposed to be adopted in the new clause, that there were certain ordinances declared by virtue of this Ordinance to be misdemeanours. I have had opportunity, with your Excellency's sanction, to confer with the hon. and learned gentleman upon those points, and have arrived at the conclusion, to meet what he desires in the matter, that the clause should be amended to make it perfectly clear that the particular ordinances mentioned are not to be included within the scope of the punishment imposed by stocks. That being so, Sir, I propose to omit clause 3, and to insert a new clause altogether, and I have so drafted this clause as to make it perfectly clear in future as to what offences stocks should apply. Instead of amending the principal ordinance I have prepared a new clause, and propose to set out as a schedule to the bill the four ordinances to which the hon. gentleman referred. That will clear up the question entirely. I propose to leave out clause 5 and substitute the following section (reads). That exactly re-enacts the second existing section of the Magistrates' Act with the amendment we have inserted here. And I also propose this proviso (reads). I may say that the hon. gentleman took exception to certain other ordinances, but as I have already pointed out to him, they are not ordinances which come within the magisterial jurisdiction at all. Personally speaking I don't think these four ordinances are really of such a character that a magistrate could impose stocks. Inasmuch as the law stands at present it is just as well to make it clear. The four Ordinances are: The Medical Registration Ordinance of 1884, the Statutory Declarations Ordinance 1893, the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance of 1896 and the Stamp Ordinance of 1901.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Sir, I accept the amendment proposed by the learned Attorney General. I think the new section is certainly an improvement on the one struck out.

Clause 5 as amended then became part of the Bill.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The only other clause which has been held over in this Bill is the first subsection of clause 7. I agreed to hold that over for discussion at this meeting at the instance of the senior unofficial member, and I have taken the opportunity given last week of discussing the subject again with the Executive Council. I find that the majority of that council are of opinion that the legislation proposed is reasonable and proper, in view especially of the pledge which I gave to the Council in committee that no regulation would be passed for a period of six months, during which time we should take steps to educate Chinese opinion both by posting notices and also by including the subject in the lectures delivered on sanitation and hygiene by Chinese lecturers. We have passed the second reading of the bill already, and there is no amendment at present before the committee. I would remind the committee that the amended clause as it stands does not make spitting a nuisance. It does not enact any prohibition whatever against it at the present

time nor does it empower the Governor-in-Council to make it an offence. All that it does is to empower the Governor-in-Council if necessity should arise in the future, to compel persons to spit circumspectly, that is to say in drains and spittoons so that the habit should not be a danger to the public health. During the discussion on the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance and on various other occasions I think I have given evidence to the Council that I most heartily desire the cooperation of the Chinese in all measures of sanitary reform in the colony. It has been the burden of every address I have made on this subject, and I think therefore this committee may trust me and may trust the Executive Council not to act in any way prejudicial to that idea. The discussions which take place in this Council find their echoes outside and I would therefore deprecate observations which tend in opposite directions. The principle I have supported is that we should seek the co-operation of the Chinese in all our measures of sanitary reform and there is nothing in my mind in the amendment before the Council which is opposed to that principle.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Sir, I think since your Excellency has gone so far as to promise that for the next six months at least no step will be taken to make spitting a criminal offence, that it would perhaps be better still if your Excellency would allow certain measures to be carried out and at the end of that time see what effect they had. Then we would be in a position to know if non-success attended our efforts for what to legislate. It has this advantage: First of all we would say to the public that we would like to have spitting on floors in certain places stopped, and if it is not stopped in a certain time we shall have to pass compulsory measures. I think suitable measures might be devised and carried out. Then we would be in a position to know how far we have succeeded or how far we have failed and what measures we should adopt to achieve success. For this reason, Sir, I move that this clause be struck out altogether for the time. It can be made the subject of distinct legislation afterwards.

Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk seconded.

Hon. Mr. Pollock—Sir, I entirely support what has been said by the hon. senior unofficial member and I agree with the majority of the unofficial members of this Council that the time is not ripe for even granting power to the Governor-in-Council to make any regulations with regard to spitting. As your Excellency said the other day this matter has been discussed in the Sanitary Board for some time past, but up to the present moment so far as I am aware, no educational steps have been taken. There has not, so far as I am aware, been any attempt either public or private to provide any receptacles for people to spit in. Therefore, Sir, I think I am quite correct in saying that educational measures have not begun at all and I think, Sir, that it is very necessary before power is taken to actually bring legislation in force, that first of all educational measures should be tried. I deprecate any legislation or any power to legislate in this matter being conferred on this Council at the present moment until it can be seen, as the hon. senior unofficial member has stated, what can be done in the way of education. As I put it now receptacles should be provided for Chinese to spit in. That seems to me the obvious preliminary measure before stating that spitting shall be an offence or making any regulation regarding it. Therefore, Sir, I hope your Excellency will yield to the wish expressed by all the unofficial members of this Council except the hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce and that you will allow this clause to be deleted altogether.

Hon. Mr. Slade—Sir, I quite agree with what has been said on this point and I think a great deal can be done in this matter privately, and without Government regulations at all. An instance was given to me only a few days ago by a gentleman here. He objected to the state of his stairs and put the matter before his Chinese staff. He had notices put up and within two or three days the nuisance was very nearly, if not entirely, done away with. If one person can do that I think it can be done in all offices and public buildings. If it is found that it is of no

value, then the time will come for the Government to take the matter in hand.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I think there is a misapprehension regarding the absence of educational measures. Such have been taken during several months past and it strikes me, Sir, that the question having been raised it is much better to deal with it as proposed and take power. There is no use in threatening a man with an unloaded gun. If you want to threaten him you have got to load the gun first. That is all this Bill proposes to do. We say if you don't give up a certain habit you will make it necessary for us to legislate. It appears to be the opinion on the part of the Chinese and unofficial members that this section is directed against the Chinese. In my experience Chinese are by no means the principal offenders. I think the Hon. Captain Superintendent of Police will have to educate his Indian police constables or he will have them run in. They are, in my experience, quite as bad offenders as any man wearing a queue in this habit of spitting. I don't think, Sir, that private educational measures would be effective. In my opinion the places where the habit is most apparent are the public wharves of the colony. In the summer time many of us go bathing from Queen's Statue Pier and that place is absolutely a disgrace. It is covered with chewed and spat out sugar cane and other deposits of even a more objectionable nature. If trust that the educational measures of the Registrar-General and the Captain Superintendent of Police may result in cleansing that wharf. I cannot see any objection to the clause as it stands. As education goes on it will not be enforced. If education does not go on then it will be admitted that in certain localities some action will be necessary.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—What is the difference between legislating after six months and creating the power now and not exercising it for six months?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The Ordinance is here and we have a convenient place to put it in. As I said we are much more likely to succeed than if people don't know.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—But they do know. If education does not improve matters, legislative measures can be passed. I do not know that it is peculiar to the Chinese but, like other people, they like to be led rather than to be driven. If you pass the clause now you palpably apply the whip. Why not have the clause left out and at the end of six months after other measures have been tried, then legislate when they are proved unsuccessful. If they are successful we will not have to burden our Statutes with any clause empowering legislation on the subject.

HIS EXCELLENCY—We are not obliged to introduce any legislation until the end of six months. You wish us to pledge ourselves to introduce legislation at the end of six months. We say legislation may at any time be introduced, but I have given a pledge that for six months it shall not be introduced.

Hon. Mr. Gresson—Is not that in the nature of a threat, Sir? The very thing we want to avoid. The Chinese do not understand these things very clearly and will say the Government are doing their best to molest us in every possible way. They are going to introduce a bill to put us into prison for spitting. We don't wish the Chinese in Hongkong to think that we are going to threaten them.

Hon. Mr. Pollock—I understood your Excellency to say just now that members of the Executive Council were not unanimous on this point. I would point out to your Excellency that a very large majority of the unofficials are against the introduction of this measure at the present moment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, the parties that the hon. member represents are at cross purposes. One half want the clause struck out altogether, while the Chinese members say give us six months grace, and, if the habit is not stopped, then legislate.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I did not say that. I said if it is not stopped then it will be time for you to pass a law.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I have already said that before any regulations are issued steps will be taken.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Then do away with the measure and the Chinese will see that the Government want their co-operation without

holding up the whip. I only ask your Excellency to give us a chance of getting their cooperation without legislative compulsion.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The principle has been already decided and I am not prepared to go back on that principle. There is no amendment before the committee.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—There is an amendment.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—This is a bill to make various amendments in the law and this happens to be one of them. There is no principle involved in the Bill.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I will put the amendment by the senior unofficial member that this clause be deleted.

The amendment was put, the voting being as follows: Ayes—Hon. Mr. Slade, Hon. Mr. Gresson, Hon. Mr. Pollock, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, and Hon. Dr. Ho Kai. Noes—Hon. Mr. Hewett, Captain Superintendent of Police, the Registrar General, the Director of Public Works, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Colonial Secretary and the General Officer Commanding.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The noes have it by eight votes to five.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai proposed a new section to take the place of the section under debate. It proposed to give power to the Governor-in-Council to make regulations with regard to the provision of spittoons in places where spitting would be prohibited.

Hon. Mr. Hewett asked if it was expected that a man should provide spittoons for use in his own office.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that there was no precedent for such a provision.

Hon. Mr. Gresson remarked that the carrying out of this law was going to cause more trouble than all the spitting of which we complained.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai said he found nothing on the statute book of England with regard to spitting.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—England is so well educated that it is not necessary.

Hon. Mr. Pollock suggested that the last clause of the amendment should be amended by adding a clause to the effect that the provisions should be submitted to the Legislative Council for approval, and that they should be printed in English and Chinese in the Gazette.

The COLONIAL TREASURER pointed out that it would be absurd to have the decisions of the Executive Council referred back again to the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. Pollock asked if it was proposed to make the Executive Council a star chamber so that its actions should not be the subject of criticism in the Legislative Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY added that anything the Governor-in-Council did was done in virtue of the powers given by the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. Pollock said there was no reason why the ultimate expression of all wisdom should lie in the Executive Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Very limited powers are given by the Legislative Council to the Governor-in-Council. In making regulations, the minimum penalty is to be \$35.

Hon. Mr. Pollock—I am not referring to the penalty. It is a question of assuming rights in a manner which has aroused a great deal of controversy.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Can you quote any precedent?

Hon. Mr. Pollock—It does not require any precedent.

The first part of Hon. Dr. Ho Kai's amendment, relating to the prohibition of spitting in certain places, was accepted by the Government. The second part, with regard to the provision of spittoons in offices and other public places for the convenience of visitors, was voted upon. Only the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk and Hon. Dr. Ho Kai supported it, all the other members voting against it. The third part with regard to the Interpretation Ordinance was withdrawn.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock's amendment, making it necessary that the regulation should receive the approval of the Legislative Council, was next considered.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I am afraid the Government cannot accept that amendment. If power is given to the Governor-in-Council to make these regulations it will be creating a wrong impression to refer it again to the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked for a division, and the voting resulted: "Noes." Hon. Mr. Slade, Hon. Mr. Hewett, Captain Superintendent of Police, Registrar-General, Director of Public Works, Colonial Treasurer, Attorney-General, Colonial Secretary and General Officer Commanding. "Ayes." Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Hon. Mr. Gresson and Hon. Mr. Pollock.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What about the other amendment as to the printing in English and Chinese?

HIS EXCELLENCY—I see no objection to that. Clause 8 then stood part of the Bill.

Clause 12—the repeal of section 87 of the principal Ordinance and the Stock Punishment Limitation Ordinance—was passed.

Council then resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Will the Council allow this Bill to be read a third time. The contentious points are all settled.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I object.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—There is nothing to be gained by postponing the third reading. You cannot have any further discussion.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—The Chinese may petition against the Bill.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following vote was passed:—

MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five thousand two hundred and seventy-five Dollars (\$5,275) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, Hospitals and Asylums, Other Charges, Infectious Hospitals, Hospital Hulk *Hygeia*, for the following items:—

Repairs,	\$1,708
Typhoon Damages,	3,567

Total.....\$5,275

JAPANESE MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

WHAT IS PROPOSED IN THE NEXT BUDGET.

The Japan Financial and Economic Annual for November, contains a chapter entitled "Outline of the Next Year's Budget," in which the following statements appear:—

The Army Department.—As a result of the new financial scheme, it was found necessary to postpone enterprises by all departments: the Army Department has proved to be the greatest sufferer, by the total sum of expenditure (Y.200,000,000) to be postponed for the space of 11 years from 1909 to 1920; the sum of nearly Y.100,000,000 belongs to enterprises under the control of this department. In enumerating the principal enterprises which require postponement, we may mention the sum of Y.42,000,000 for repairing and for new expenses, Y.46,000,000 for restoration measures, Y.3,900,000 for building warehouses, and Y.82,000,000 for extraordinary military expenses, totalling of Y.180,000,000. Thus it will be seen that the postponement covers expenses for repairing and making new preparations, the restoration measures, the building of storerooms and extraordinary military expenses, and those concerning the making of arms and ammunition not necessary in time of peace, which will, however, be completed by 1920. The Budget for the next year will see a reduction of some Y.1,000,000 in ordinary expenses compared with the figures of the present year, while extraordinary expenditure will not exceed Y.29,000,000 because of the postponement of enterprises amounting to Y.15,000,000 out of Y.35,000,000 that was fixed in the Budget as arranged previously.

A long-distance race for horses from Tokyo to Kyoto—about 300 miles—is to be held early in February. The promoters hope to demonstrate that race-horses are stronger than military horses, in order to try to correct unfavourable comments recently made by the military authorities in Japan on race-horses.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

TOKYO, Dec. 3.

THE UNDERSTANDING.

The first foreign engagement the United States have ever entered into is looked upon in Japan as quite on a par with the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Various causes of origin are given by Tokyo papers of Japan's latest agreement, one authority stating that the idea originated when Secretary Taft was here three years ago. It is generally admitted that the visit of the Fleet had a lot to do in bringing the idea to a head, while the official explanation is that it is simply a crystallisation of the opinion that has long been held by the two governments and people—the much-talked-of unwritten alliance given a concrete form.

THE POWER IN THE EAST.

When the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was renewed a few years ago, continental opinion was very much opposed to British policy in this direction, but the last two years have witnessed a remarkable *volte face*, if it may be so described. The dominating position of Japan in the Far East has become generally recognised and also the perilous position of China, the object of all the Powers' interest. Hence the change of sentiment, bringing with it Franco-Japanese and Russo-Japanese agreements. China is now walled in by four compacts between five great nations who undertake to preserve her integrity and maintain the principle of equal opportunity within her borders. Surely the fear of war is now removed! The understanding with America seems to be of particular value in this respect, for each nation promises to respect the territorial possessions belonging to the other in the region of the Pacific, and by this agreement one of the principal causes that have influenced anti-Japanese writings in America is removed. The belief in the natural hostility of Japan and America was very strong among foreigners even at the time of the visit of the fleet, and nothing short of the written word will remove it. The understanding shows, as forcibly as anything can show, that Japan has no hostile designs against the Philippines or any other American territory, and with that the most sceptical must be content. The widespread suspicion entertained against Japanese policy is reflected in the resentful tone of some of the leading articles in Tokyo papers on the understanding, but at least it should be comforting to these writers that it is greater evidence of a country's influence to be suspected than to be entirely ignored. Japan is the centre of a group of agreements that simply show how much she is respected by the great Powers of the world.

THE POLICY OF SILENCE.

Count Okuma gave expression to a characteristic growl a day or two ago. He said, in relation to the new agreement, that he always received the first news of anything happening in Tokyo from London or Washington. Certainly the State ignorance in Tokyo was in remarkable contrast to public opinion in Washington, London, Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg. At these capitals the agreement was discussed as a thing signed, sealed, and delivered. Here the papers assumed that something had taken place and the *Mainichi Dempo* was the first out with the alleged five clauses, telegraphed from San Francisco. But perhaps because of the place of origin of the telegram the news was not believed, although it was quite correct.

DIPLOMATIC HUMBUG.

The Japanese Government in recent years has paid severely for its contemptuous treatment of the people when anything of great national importance is being negotiated. Contrary to their rights as a constitutional people, the Japanese people have nothing to do with government and know nothing of what is going on. If they try to find out, they meet with a very discouraging reception. Officialdom in Tokyo will go to absurd lengths to keep the public in the dark, not because the matter in hand requires to be kept secret, but from a routine habit and contempt for the people as a people. Had anybody tried a few days ago to get information about the agreement his first course would have been a visit to the Foreign Office. We will assume he is a journalist

instructed to verify certain reports. He sends up his card, say, to an official of his acquaintance, thinking he will have the same frank reception as when he met this official at some social function. Shown into a large, well furnished room by a uniformed attendant the visitor waits half an hour with exemplary patience and at last is greeted, not by his friend, but by an individual who bears the stamp of a minor official. Indeed, this gentleman admits with disconcerting pleasantness that he knows nothing. It is no use talking to him, for his very appearance suggests an absolute divorce from knowledge, while his smart get up and well brushed hair shows it to be his business to receive persons of an inquiring frame of mind. His politeness is painful; his anxiety that you find the right way out after a fruitless interview the last straw. The visitor crawls away thinking that after all diplomacy is a great thing. But the ordinary man would like to know what is the necessity of such reticence in such an agreement, or if a certain degree of reticence is necessary why cannot the public be so informed? If absolute silence is desirable, let them say so, and no sensible man would inquire further. But the attitude assumed by officialdom of knowing nothing—it is childish and should be struck out of the canons of diplomatic practice.

BISHOP AWDRY.

Reuter's message that Bishop Awdry, of the South Tokyo diocese, would not return to the East, on the advice of his doctor, covers a very sad case. The Bishop is suffering from cancer in the stomach, contracted only a few years ago, and the medical opinion is that the invalid has not many years to live. It is understood that while the disease is not painful and may not seriously interfere with the Bishop's work, the climate of Japan is unsuitable, and he will therefore remain in England.

THE RACE CLUBS.

The season for the autumn races is now at hand and during the next fortnight six clubs, four having courses in the Tokyo district, will hold meetings for three days. In consequence of the abolition of all forms of betting the clubs are to be financially assisted by the Government, the latter's object of course being the improvement of the breed of horses. Four of the clubs receive 25,000 yen each per meeting, and the others a lesser amount, but it need hardly be said that these subsidies are insufficient, unless the meetings are well supported by the public, to enable the clubs to make a profit. They are commercial institutions, and not as the Government would have them, established primarily for the purpose of improving the breed of horses. In connection with this, the president of one of the companies ridicules the gift of 25,000 yen to enable a first-class company to hold a meeting. He says the average expenses of these meetings is 120,000 yen and considers racing, without the incentive of the pari mutual, doomed. That is probably the case, for few people will be found to pay the sum of five yen downwards to look at a few horses running. Everybody knows that some horse will come in first, but the privilege of backing one's fancy gives all the pleasure and excitement of the course. The future is not bright for those who have invested some 10,000,000 yen in race clubs. The stock of these companies is now not worth a tenth of that sum.

THE TRADE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

ALMOST A RECORD YEAR.

The report of Mr. Geo. R. Colton, Collector of Customs of the Philippine Islands, for the fiscal year ending June 30th last was recently issued. It shows a total value of foreign trade of nearly \$64,000,000; the largest year, with one exception (1903) since the American occupation, and divided between imports and exports about evenly, with a balance of trade in favour of the Islands of \$2,000,000. The rice importations of nearly \$6,000,000 continue to excite remarks. Of course, if the Filipinos would raise their own rice, this money would be kept at home. It seems incredible that over \$250,000 during the year was sent out of the country for fresh eggs although the chicken certainly thrives in the Islands for cock-fighting uses. Hemp is the major product. While the exports were in-

creased to 114,000 tons, the income was but something over \$17,000,000, a reduction in receipts from this source of \$3,000,000 over 1907. Hemp ranged per ton from \$140 down to \$72. This is in marked contrast with the average price during the last ten years of \$158.84. The highest price was \$184 per ton in January 1906. Hemp is the main hope of these islands, and there is no cause for discouragement.

Sugar, the second product in importance, showed exports of 150,000 tons valued at \$5,600,000, an increase of 31,000 tons over 1907. The average exports since 1898 have been 90,000 tons, although in 1902 and 1903 250,000 tons were exported. The average exports from the Philippine Islands for ten years have been less than 3½ per cent. of the foreign sugar consumed in the United States, which makes the fears of the beet sugar growers of that country absurd.

Copra (dried cocoanut meat) was exported to the value of \$5,550,000, a considerable increase, although the price was off. Cocoanut oil is being made now in Manila, and in 1908 the exports were 709,000 gallons, valued at \$263,000.

Tobacco exports showed a falling off of \$415,000, but the exports for the year were \$2,715,000.

The Customs Bureau collected \$8,318,000 which goes a long way toward supporting the Insular Government. The high tariff is certainly a success as a revenue producer. The Islands have stopped the legal importation of opium and the loss for the year in receipts, basing the calculations on the collections from that drug during the last five years, was \$236,698.40; in other words, the average annual receipts from opium during the years of 1903-1907 inclusive were the handsome sum of \$328,864.40, whereas the collections for 1908 (all prior to March 1st at which date importations were absolutely forbidden) amounted to but \$92,126. The officials of the islands certainly deserve credit for their skill in adjusting the finances to meet this large shortage.

Coming to imports, which total about \$31,000,000 (exclusive of supplies for the Government, military and naval forces, etc.), \$8,000,000 were spent for cotton goods; nearly \$6,000,000 for rice as mentioned; \$2,165,000 for manufactures of iron and steel; \$1,520,000 for provisions; and \$1,055,000 for cattle. For flour imports the Islanders spent \$1,045,000; and for illuminating oil \$806,000. The United Kingdom supplied over half of the cotton goods and the report speaks of "the prestige in the local market of British cotton textiles" also "the particular attention devoted by British manufacturers in this as well as other lines to the production of qualities of goods best adapted to the requirements." It is of interest to note that Spain sent \$593,000 worth of cotton textiles, a falling off of 28 per cent. from that of 1907. Spain must decrease in her dealings with the Islands. A greater demand for high grade knitted goods resulted in increased receipts from Germany. German cotton goods totalled for the year \$502,000, an increase over 1907 of \$39,000. Cheaper goods from Japan have impaired the British East Indian cotton trade. Germany leads the importations of sewing machines valued at \$99,000 against \$31,000 from the United States. Australia sent practically all of the fresh beef, and two-thirds of the fresh pork; the best came from the United States. China produced most of the lard. Australia sent four times as much butter as Denmark. The condensed milk business ran up to \$350,000 in value, of which the United Kingdom got twice as much as America and Switzerland half as much as America. The growth in imports of 193 head of cattle in 1899 to 43,000 head in 1908 valued at \$1,055,000 calls for no remark.

Australia sent 133,200 barrels of flour and the United States sent 10,000 fewer barrels in 1908. The showing is more favourable to America than in 1907 and American dealers think now they can hold the trade. The United Kingdom sent \$70,600 worth of whiskey, American whiskey second, being a very few thousand dollars less. Malt liquors are more and more manufactured locally.

Typhoid broke out a week ago among the soldiers of the 26th regiment at Manila. Last Sunday's report was seven men ill and one dead.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, December 14th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGOTT).

A QUESTION OF JURISDICTION.

His Lordship delivered judgment on the important point as to jurisdiction raised in the Bankruptcy of Chan Yu Shan.

He said—The questions raised in this case which concerns the bankruptcy jurisdiction of this court over foreigners are of the utmost importance. I have hinted at them on one or two occasions, but this is the first on which they have given rise to serious argument and I shall deal with the matter as fully as possible, because a large proportion of the trade of the colony is done with Chinamen carrying on business here, and in nine-tenths of the bankruptcy petitions which come before the court the debtor is a Chinaman, and therefore the fundamental principles on which English bankruptcy jurisdiction is based are involved in almost every case in which I have to deal. The importance of the question arises from the fact that where a Chinaman trades, as so many of them do, in other parts of the East as well as Hongkong, it is almost impossible to localise the effect of a bankruptcy in this colony.

I do not think there can be much dispute as to the facts except as to one point. In view of the law which I am going to lay down in this judgment the point is not really of first importance because the debtor is a Chinaman, and I do not see much evidence that he ever traded generally, though he appears to have incurred debts in the colony. It is however advisable that I should express an opinion on the point. Was the debtor a resident in Hongkong who went down to Annam to buy cinnamon which he then brought up to the colony to dispose of, or was he a resident in Annam who bought cinnamon there and brought it up to the colony to dispose of? I am of opinion that the latter are the true facts. I think it probable that he had done this on previous occasions, but I do not think that is material.

Having dealt with the general law, his Lordship considered the facts of the case, and in doing so, said—The debtor certainly was not domiciled in the colony and, as I have said on a previous occasion, I do not suppose there are 100 Chinamen in the colony who are domiciled here, as the larger number of those who reside here all desire and intend to return to China whenever they have made enough or commercial adversity compels them. On the question of residence his Lordship held that the debtor's occupation of the cubicle was temporary, that it was only to last till the business for which he came to the colony was concluded, and he found great difficulty in seeing how a residence which was, admittedly, temporary could at the same time be described as "ordinary."

Continuing his Lordship said—The important question is: Was this a "place of business" in the colony? What is required is not merely carrying on business, but a place of business, which means a place where the debtor does business. Coming now more closely to the facts of this case one point is quite clear—if a person merely employs a commission agent consigning his goods to him for sale, that does not make the commission agent's premises his client's place of business. I am also clear that the cubicle was not a place of business *per se*. The evidence is very slender as to business transacted there; if there had been many transactions, in fact, and business done there, the owner of the house would certainly have given much more evidence of people coming there. The only place of business which the debtor could have had were the premises of the Kwang Mo where the clients met him and laded their conc bargains. The vital point to consider therefore is this—Must the place of business belong or be under the control of the debtor? On this point I am far from clear. The key

to the subject is the remark of Lord Justice Brett in *re Hecquard*: the extension of the bankruptcy jurisdiction to foreigners is made on account of the "hold" they have on the country, and the question to be answered in each case of doubt is "Has the debtor in question a hold on the country?" A "hold on the country" means, I imagine, something which is visible to other persons who trade in the country which induces them to give the debtor credit. What I think is the meaning of the phrase "hold on the country" is that it is such a position as will induce people by reason of it to give a person credit. It seems to me that if a man is doing business such as concluding bargains for the sale of his goods, at a place where he may be seen doing it, then others may not unreasonably suppose that he has business to do and that that is the place where he does business and on the strength of that people may give him credit. If they do, then that place becomes for the purpose of bankruptcy law his "place of business." This seems to be a reasonable distinction to draw between the case where a man sends goods to be sold on commission leaving the business entirely in the hands of the commission agent, and one who intermeddles in the eyes of the business world with the making of the bargains. It is therefore the fact that there are other creditors which brings the case within the purview of the bankruptcy jurisdiction of the court; whether they can justify their claims is another matter with which I have not now to deal. I am therefore of opinion that this court has jurisdiction to entertain this petition and that the opposition must be rejected. In view of the uncertainty of this question which has been raised I do not reject it with costs.

ANOTHER DOMICILE PROBLEM.

Re Wei Long Shang ex parte Yuen Hing. This was an application for the rescission of a receiving order. Mr. Hastings appeared for the Bank of Taiwan Limited, Mr. Atkinson for the petitioning creditor, and Mr. Dennys for the debtor.

Mr. Hastings said that curiously enough the question in that case was similar to that which his Lordship had just decided, the question of the domicile of the debtor. On behalf of the judgment creditor he asked that the receiving order made on November 5th be rescinded and that the objection of the petitioning creditor for a receiving order might be dismissed with costs upon the following grounds:—(1) the debtor was not domiciled in this colony at the date of the presentation of the petition, and the court has no jurisdiction to make a receiving order; (2) that the debtor committed no act of bankruptcy on which a petition could be founded; (3) that after payment of costs of the proceedings there will be no substantial assets for division among the creditors; and (4) that the petitioner is in collusion with the debtor and that the proceedings are an abuse of the process of this honourable court.

His Lordship thought that 3 and 4 were matters for the Official Receiver.

Mr. Hastings thought that if he was there on good ground he might argue, on almost any.

The Chief Justice pointed out that the Official Receiver watched over bankruptcy and any question like substantial assets was for him to deal with. With regard to collusion that was a question on which he might exercise his discretion. Mr. Hastings' other two points were, he thought, legitimate.

Mr. Hastings said that he would only mention 3 and 4 in passing. Undoubtedly 1 and 2 were the main grounds, and the important question was one of domicile. The debtor was assistant comprador to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for several years. In 1905 the Bank of Taiwan sued him and obtained judgment against him for \$20,000. He then absconded. His solicitors said he left the colony, and there was no doubt he left the colony. He did not return until a few months ago when he was served with the writ.

His Lordship said that in all cases of Chinese he would ask for proof of domicile.

Mr. Hastings then read debtor's statement in which he stated that he was born in Hongkong, that his native village was Chin San in the Heungshan district, that he had one family house in Macao and another in Canton but none in Hongkong.

His Lordship—There is no domicile there.

Mr. Hastings—The point we have to consider is what was this debtor's domicile of origin? My friend seems to assume in his affidavit a wrong state of affairs, viz. that as the debtor was born in Hongkong his domicile of origin was here. That is not so. A Chinese child born here takes the domicile of his father. We have to consider the father's domicile at the time the debtor was born. The family house was Chin San. I submit he never had domicile here. Assuming for the sake of argument that he had a Hongkong domicile, there was not the slightest doubt that he abandoned it when he left Hongkong for three years, and removed his family house to Macao. Proceeding he pointed out that the debtor was attempting an abuse of the process of the court. His debts amounted to \$245,000 and he came here with \$20,000 which his friends had subscribed and asked the court to whitewash him. This was like paying three halfpence in the £ or two-thirds of a cent in the dollar. There were no merits in his favour.

His Lordship—The question which arises is that he was born here and is therefore a British subject.

Mr. Hastings—Birth in a place does not give domicile.

His Lordship—It alters the whole business of jurisdiction.

Mr. Hastings—I submit he is not a British subject.

His Lordship—He is born here.

Mr. Hastings—But never was domiciled.

His Lordship—Is a person who comes within the Bankruptcy laws? Is he a British subject? Then you can come to the question of domicile?

Mr. Hastings—Granting for the sake of argument that he is a person to whom the Bankruptcy laws apply, then, where are we? I say the very fact of his birth here does not give him a Hongkong domicile. If a Frenchman comes to London with his wife, and a child is born while they are there that does not give the son an English domicile. He takes the French domicile of his father. In like manner this man takes the domicile of his father. It is clear he did not live or carry on business here within the year preceding the petition. It is solely on the question of domicile that they rely.

Mr. Atkinson took two preliminary objections to the application, but his Lordship did not sustain them. Proceeding Mr. Atkinson said that it was necessary for the Taiwan Bank to prove that the making of the order would entail some disadvantage to them. Their object was to get the receiving order rescinded, put the man in gaol, keep him there and squeeze his brothers.

His Lordship—No, no.

Mr. Atkinson It is almost a recognised process. He added that the judgment creditors had had their judgment for three or four years and had done nothing with it.

His Lordship—There are a great many difficulties in the way of enforcing an English judgment in China. The sooner I get rid of these difficulties the better I shall like it.

Mr. Atkinson—They have the protection and assistance of the British Consul. He is there to help them. They have no right to come here at all.

On the question of discretion, his Lordship remarked that he would never have granted the petition if he had known that there was only to be a payment of three halfpence in the £.

Mr. Atkinson said that the mere fact of the assets being swallowed up by the costs was not sufficient to refuse the petition.

His Lordship held that it was.

Mr. Dennys then addressed the court. He wished his Lordship to say that the making of the receiving order bound the judgment creditor, and that the court had exercised its discretion with reference to the amount that was divisible among the creditors. With regard to the first point he admitted that if his friend succeeded in making his Lordship hold that the debtor was not domiciled here at the date of the receiving order, he had a right to ask his Lordship to rescind it.

His Lordship thought he had raised this question as to the amount of the dividend.

Mr. Dennys was of the opinion that the court having exercised its discretion was bound by that decision. His friend's statement that the dividend was only at the rate of three half-

pence in the £ was wide of the mark. The debtor was indebted for over half a million dollars.

His Lordship did not think they need go on with that.

Mr. Dennys then produced a certificate signed by the then Governor of Hongkong that the debtor was born in the colony.

His Lordship did not know of any certificate which he could receive.

Mr. Dennys—I want to show he is a British subject.

His Lordship—I grant you that.

Mr. Dennys—This shows he was a British subject in 1884. He never had any intention of going back to his Chinese citizenship.

His Lordship—The two things are distinct—domicile and nationality.

Mr. Dennys—In this case I have to prove nationality. If your Lordship gives any credence to the debtor's statement he never had any intention of giving up his British nationality or his domicile and the proof is that he was a Justice of the Peace of the colony.

His Lordship—Nationality is evidence in favour of domicile. That is as far as you can go.

Mr. Dennys—Of course his statement can be contradicted by his acts.

His Lordship—The question of domicile usually arises after a man's death.

Mr. Dennys then read a long affidavit by debtor and pointed out that there was no evidence as to the nationality of Wai Kwong, debtor's father.

His Lordship—I am afraid he is a Chinaman. He was born before Hongkong came into the possession of Britain.

The affidavit then went on to explain that debtor would have been able to meet his debts had not his estate been swallowed to meet the liabilities of a friend for whom he stood security.

His Lordship expressed the conviction that a Chinaman returned to the home of his ancestors.

Mr. Dennys pointed out that this place was not considered the ancestral home.

His Lordship held that the position of a Chinaman differed very little from that of an Indian in other British colonies. They could not hold that an Indian was domiciled out of India. He had got the desire implanted within him to return to the home of his fathers.

Mr. Dennys—The same feeling is implanted in the breast of an Englishman.

His Lordship—And of a Scotsman too.

Mr. Dennys—I take it my domicile is held to be England, although I have been here 40 years.

His Lordship—Because when you have amassed your fortune you propose to return. (Laughter).

Mr. Dennys—I have expressed no desire to give up my British domicile. This man claims to be a British subject.

His Lordship—There is such a thing as double nationality.

The Chief Justice then perused the certificate handed in and remarked that it stated that in 1884 he claimed to be a British subject.

Mr. Dennys—Yes.

His Lordship—Are these certificates issued now?

Mr. Dennys—Yes. I remember one which stated that so and so, the son of a Dutch father and a Chinese mother, was a British subject.

His Lordship—It is very important. There is an Act of Parliament for declaring nationality. It authorises the Government to give these certificates subject to certain formalities. An informal certificate is very dangerous. These certificates are not worth the paper they are written on.

Mr. Dennys—The Crown Solicitor was not consulted on the subject.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

Wednesday, 16th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

A COMPRADORE'S AGREEMENT.

Further argument was heard in the action raised by S. J. David and Company against

Chan Ut Chui, a former compradore for the recovery of \$648,816 damages under a compradore's agreement.

Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiffs, while defendant was represented by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston.

His Lordship, alluding to clause 8 which referred to the responsibility of the compradore to make good to the firm all monies, losses, etc., said he could not follow from counsel's argument why that did not supply the personal covenant in the mortgage.

Mr. Pollock submitted that the words referred to must import personal liability.

His Lordship wished to know whether that stood in lieu of the ordinary personal covenant.

Mr. Pollock agreed that it was equivalent to a personal covenant. He would like to draw his Lordship's attention to the word "all," and submitted that it showed personal liability and was to extend to moneys, losses etc. and not merely to extend to a balance after deducting the value of the mortgaged premises and after deducting the sum of \$55,000.

His Lordship replied that if he were to hold that that clause in the agreement was equivalent to the personal covenant in the mortgage, then possibly plaintiff's rights would be the same as if they had got a personal covenant.

Mr. Pollock agreed that was so and contended that clause 12 showed defendant was bound to make good to the plaintiffs all losses in connection with the firm's business sales, agreements or transactions. The clause obviously contemplated an account being run up against the compradore. Taking clauses 8 and 12, his Lordship should hold that there was personal liability to an unlimited amount, not limited by the amount of the mortgaged property and the \$55,000 deposited, and it was absolutely clear that the compradore agreed to be liable *inter alia* for losses arising from or in connection with the business.

Sir Henry Berkeley said he was going to argue that the two documents should be read as one. The two documents constituted the trust of surety and therefore the agreement between the parties was one of suretyship. The point was whether the concluding part of clause 3 of the agreement might be read as if it formed the precise terms of the mortgage security.

His Lordship—Whether it does not stand in lieu of it?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Yes. Proceeding, he respectfully submitted that the concluding words did not constitute an agreement on the part of the compradore to pay all losses sustained by his employers under their contracts with the Chinese dealers. He contended that nothing was due under the mortgage because there was no personal covenant in the mortgage to pay.

In the course of subsequent discussion reference was made to the method of conveyancing, upon which his Lordship remarked—I only wish we could adopt the French system of conveyancing. This is most complicated. If somebody would only study French conveyancing it would be quite simple; you simply say what you mean.

Argument was concluded and his Lordship indicated that he would endeavour to give judgment before next Wednesday.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM AGAINST A SHIPPING COMPANY.

The action in which Yun Wan, who claimed to be the lawful husband of Yun Yan Shi, deceased, and Yun Ah Mui, the infant daughter of both, sought to recover from the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company Limited \$1,000 damages for loss sustained by the death of the said Yun Yan Shi, was continued. Plaintiff alleged negligence of the defendants' servants in navigating the s.s. *Loong Sang* in the harbour of Hongkong on 19th June, 1908, whereby a collision took place between the *Loong Sang* and the licensed junk No. 2666 on which the said Yun Yan Shi was a passenger. The deceased had been in receipt of from \$12 to \$15 per month as wages and had contributed up to the time of her death towards

the household expenses of the plaintiff and had paid solely for the maintenance and education of Yun Ah Mui. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Hastings appeared for the defendants.

A clerk in the Registrar General's office produced a petition sent in by Li Ting claiming compensation for the death of his wife.

Mr. Hastings pointed out that this was presented before the date of the action.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing said he would produce a letter from Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co., in answer to the claim he made on July 30th. Evidently they had knowledge of the claim.

Witness, examined as to Chinese marriage customs, said that strictly speaking before the wife was called *kifai* neither of the parties should have been previously married. A widow remarrying was a real wife.

Would it be necessary on a man marrying a widow for the widow to be accommodated with a marriage chair?—In Canton according to mandarin custom, they should have a marriage chair, but in the country the chair is dispensed with.

The coolie contractor who occasionally employed the deceased woman estimated her earnings at \$9 or \$10 a month. Her expenses would amount to \$4 or \$5 a month.

Mr. E. F. Aucott, shipping clerk in Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., said the first intimation his firm had of the claim in question was on July 31st. Cross-examined.—The firm had had other claims. The first one was settled for \$1,500 in respect of the damage to the junk and the loss of the owner's wife. It was paid in settlement of all claims.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing said he wished to call evidence of the marriage of plaintiff and the deceased and pointed out that deceased had not been identified except by name as the wife of Li Ting. Counsel proposed to call evidence to rebut the testimony of one of the witnesses who made inquiries at his office.

Mr. Hastings objected.

Other witnesses having been called.

Mr. Hastings submitted that the plaintiff had not made out his case.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing also addressed the court.

His Lordship gave judgment for defendants on the simple ground that there had been proof of a previous marriage which had not been annulled.

Thursday, 17th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

FORECLOSURE ACTION.

The Hongkong Fire Insurance Company brought action against Lo Kwong and the Yuen On Insurance Exchange Loan and Godown Co., Ltd., to have an account taken of what was due to plaintiffs for principal and interest and costs under an indenture of mortgage by which the first defendant assigned to them certain property in security of the repayment of \$50,000 and asked for foreclosure.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Atkinson, appeared for the plaintiffs, defendants being unrepresented.

Mr. Leefe, secretary of the plaintiff company, having stated the particulars, his Lordship granted a foreclosure decree.

BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

A QUESTION OF DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

Re Ho Shiu Chau, application for approval of a scheme of composition, his Lordship delivered judgment as follows: I am asked to sanction a scheme of composition by which it is proposed that sixty per cent. should be paid to the European creditors and twenty-five per cent to the Chinese creditors. If all the Chinese creditors had been present at the meeting and had assented, I suppose I should have had no option but to sanction the scheme, but it was passed only by the statutory majority and four Chinese creditors were not present. If I sanction this the meeting will be bound by it. I do not know of any duty which compels creditors

to attend these meetings; if they are out of the jurisdiction they can only appoint a proxy. It is true they do not attend at their own risk, but they are quite entitled to leave the matter to the other creditors because they know that the decision must come up for the approval of the court. One thing they have a right to expect—equality of treatment—but here I am asked to sanction an agreement for differential treatment. I cannot sanction the scheme which would, had I not to sanction it, be illegal. The requisite statutory majority has not been obtained because the votes of the European creditors present were only given on condition that they should obtain a special advantage and they are therefore affected by undue prejudice.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—I appear for the debtor. All the Chinese creditors have agreed.

His Lordship—I can only deal with the facts as they were put before me.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—All these creditors are in the colony and they have agreed.

His Lordship—It is not on the file; as the scheme is presented to me I cannot possibly find otherwise.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—May I come again before your Lordship?

His Lordship—If you like.

The Official Receiver—The opposition, if any, was at first inclined to come from the European creditors and not from the Chinese.

His Lordship—It makes it all the worse. They get all the disadvantage.

The Official Receiver—They were inclined to oppose the arrangement at first.

His Lordship—It is an undue preference which I cannot sanction. The whole idea of the Bankruptcy Ordinance is equality.

A DOMICILE PROBLEM.

Re Wei Long Shang *ex parte* Yuen. This was an application for the rescission of a receiving order which came before the Court on Monday. Mr. Hastings appeared for the Bank of Taiwan Mr. Atkinson for the petitioning creditor, and Mr. Dennys for the debtor.

His Lordship said:—A judgment creditor applies to rescind the receiving order. Four grounds of opposition were raised and my ruling with regard to them will serve as a good illustration of the general practice with regard to oppositions to petitions which I have sanctioned. The third was that "after the payment of costs of the proceedings there will be no substantial assets for division among the creditors." That ground is not good because it is a matter which the Official Receiver considers and usually advises the judge on the application. The fourth ground is that the petitioner is in collusion with the debtor and that the proceedings are in abuse of the process of the court. This is also a matter which concerns the Official Receiver who in this respect exercises a general surveillance over bankruptcy proceedings. The first ground is that the debtor was not domiciled in this colony at the date of the presentation of the petition and therefore that the court has no jurisdiction to make a receiving order. And the second was that the debtor has committed no act of bankruptcy on which a petition would be founded.

At the first meeting of creditors the debtor made a statement that he was born in Hongkong. I see no reason to doubt this. This then makes him a natural born subject of the King, but in order to make this point clear (and it is an important point) a certificate of Sir George Bowen, the then governor of the colony, dated 21st July, 1884, was referred to. It was given under the seal of the colony and was to the fact that having examined two affidavits of birth His Excellency was satisfied that Wei Long Shan, the debtor, was born in the colony and therefore that he believed him to be a British subject. I understand that these certificates are issued in virtue of permissive instructions from the Secretary of State given in August 1862. I have never seen one before and as it was referred to in the argument I must express my opinion on it. In an English port such a certificate is of no value whatever for any legal purpose. It refers to two affidavits of birth but by whom they were made does not appear. The proper person to issue certificates of birth or to be more precise, sealed and certified copies of entries in his registers, is the Registrar-General, and I am not sure but I do not think

that even these are made conclusive evidence of the facts contained in the entries. They this certificate says that having read these two affidavits the Governor has satisfied himself that Wei Long Shan was born in the colony and the Emperor of China being at amity with the Queen of England at that time the Governor believes him to be a British subject but this is *non sequitur*. If the person to whom the certificate is given was born in the colony he is a British subject. There is no ground for belief or disbelief. The fact is both the instructions of the Secretary of State and the opinion of the Law Officers have been misconstrued by the drafter of the form annexed to the instructions. The belief, the expression of which is sanctioned, is as to the fact of birth in the colony from which the legal consequence of British nationality follows. It is very necessary that such certificates if they are to be issued at all should be drafted with extreme care. The idea on which they were allowed clearly was that nothing positive should be stated and the statement of belief must be limited to the fact of birth in the colony. Otherwise the issue of the certificates may be attended with considerable danger, for I understand that they are sometimes visé by foreign consuls for use in foreign ports and it may well be that, being under the seal of the colony, they would receive a larger measure of credence so far as the fact of birth is concerned than they are entitled to and in law they are open to two objections with regard to the statement of belief in British nationality. In the first place they ignore the possibility or rather probability that some of the recipients may be the unfortunate victims of double nationality, being Chinese as well as British subjects, and secondly there is a regular process for settling doubts as to nationality provided in the Legitimacy Declaration Act 1858. It is true that that Act probably does not apply to a colony where the court has no divorce jurisdiction as here, but that makes it all the more necessary to issue certificates of nationality with the greatest caution lest they should be confused with those issued under that Act. There is also another process for quieting doubts as to the right of a person to be a British subject provided by section 7 of the Naturalisation Act. It seems clear that in applying the test of domicile to any case the court has regard to the English notions of domicile and therefore, although domicile is obviously quite unknown to the Chinese we can, from the point of view of English law, talk of a Chinaman being domiciled in China. Further the ordinary rule applies that unless a domicile of choice is proved, the domicile of origin is that of his father at the time of his birth. I may therefore at once determine what the debtor's domicile of origin was. The debtor is 53 years old, so that he was born in 1855. The colony was much too young in those days for me to assume that a Chinaman ever deliberately intended to acquire such a permanent home in the colony as is necessary to the acquisition of domicile. The father's domicile was that of China at the debtor's birth, and I have no evidence before me that his father changed his domicile and so his son's domicile before the debtor could acquire a new domicile for himself. His Lordship reviewed the evidence and said: "On the debtor's statement there can be no doubt that he never acquired a permanent home in Hongkong. This illustrates my belief that hardly any Chinaman who is merely a trader here ever tears himself away root and branch from his family village in China which is what is required to establish a domicile in this colony; the whole idea of a permanent establishment in Hongkong with a fixed determination never to return to the ancestral village otherwise than as a visitor seems to me inconsistent with the normal ideas of a Chinaman. Nationality is not domicile, nor domicile nationality. The two things have no relation to one another. Nationality may be evidence of a domicile of origin, but it is not possible to go further than this. There is therefore not the slightest ground for the allegation that the debtor was domiciled in the colony and the order must therefore be rescinded with costs against the petitioning creditor."

Mr. Hastings asked for an order in the terms of the judgment.

Mr. Atkinson pointed out that the receiving order was made by the court and the petitioning creditor should not be made to pay the costs. His application was good at the time it was made.

His Lordship replied that it was based on an allegation which they could not make good.

Mr. Atkinson—The estate was in bankruptcy.

His Lordship—It should not have been.

Mr. Atkinson—The estate was in bankruptcy until this morning.

His Lordship—I know. I have declared I have no jurisdiction to make an order. The estate should not have been there.

Mr. Atkinson—It was by the order of the court.

His Lordship—By the order of the court made on a statement which was unfounded.

Friday, December 18th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

The Criminal Sessions have five charges, concerning ten men, to investigate. Two are murder, one wounding, one robbery, one larceny and one receiving stolen goods.

THE CHEONGSHAWAN MURDER.

Chia Yuen Fuk was placed in the dock on a charge of murdering Choy Yueng at Cheongshawan on Nov. 26th. The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Rees Davies, K.C.) conducted the prosecution, while Mr. R. E. Belilios instructed by Mr. D'Almada e Castro, from Messrs. Goldring, Barlow, and Morrell defended.

The following jury was empanelled:

Messrs. David A. Purvis, Henry Reeves, Hedley T. Richardson, Johannes P. Ulderup, Thomas P. Hall (foreman), Henry Gittins, and Frederick Ellis.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case, said the deceased man lived at Cheongshawan in the New Territory, and he and prisoner lived together in an un-numbered house. The murder appeared to have arisen out of a quarrel between them on November 25th. The principal witness in the case was a stone carrier, and he would tell the jury that he was in the habit of visiting the house. On November 25th, the night before the affair took place, this witness went to the house, and while there a dispute arose between the prisoner and deceased as to a sum of a dollar and a half. The deceased man alleged that the accused had stolen this money from him. Subsequently there was a fight between the men outside. The following morning the same witness paid another visit to the house and found deceased sitting on a bed. Shortly afterwards prisoner came in and the quarrel was resumed on the same subject as the night before. After the dispute had been going on for some time, prisoner produced a knife, whereupon the deceased immediately ran out of the house, and was pursued by the prisoner with the knife. The witness followed and saw the prisoner come up with the deceased after a run of some 20 yards, catch hold of him by his queue, and stab him. Thereupon the deceased appeared to have held on to the prisoner by his queue and called out, "Save life." The witness then ran up, seized the prisoner, snatched the knife from him, and called for assistance. Shortly afterwards another man came up with a rope, and he and the witness bound the prisoner. The story as to the quarrel and the murder would be borne out by a married woman living in a house near. Probably the only question the jury would have to decide was whether there was murder or manslaughter. As the evidence read in the depositions, there would probably be no doubt that prisoner inflicted the wounds, and that as a result the prisoner died. It would be for the jury to say whether there was what was known as "malice aforethought," whether the fact of the quarrel the night before, the production of the knife, the following of deceased by the prisoner with the knife for some distance down the road, and then inflicting the stab upon him was "malice."

After hearing evidence, the case was adjourned.

Saturday, December 19th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

MANSLAUGHTER.

The hearing of the charge preferred against Chia Yuen Fuk of murdering Choy Yueng at Cheongshawan on Nov. 26th was resumed. The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Rees Davies, K.C.) conducted the prosecution, while Mr. R. E. Belilios instructed by Mr. D'Almada e Castro, from Messrs. Goldring, Barlow, and Morrell defended.

The jury was as under: Messrs. David A. Purvis, Henry Reeves, Hedley T. Richardson, Johannes P. Ulderup, Thomas P. Hall (foreman), Henry Gittins, and Frederick Ellis. The case for the Crown being concluded,

Mr. Belilios addressed the jury:—He said the defence would be that it was deceased who first took up the knife, chased prisoner, and then a scuffle ensued. In the scuffle deceased dropped his knife and that was the time when prisoner first got possession of it. Prisoner was thrown on the ground, his throat was being squeezed by the deceased, and, being the weaker man, he stabbed upwards in self-protection. There was not the slightest tittle of evidence to show that prisoner premeditated murder.

The Attorney-General contended that the evidence of the prisoner, uncorroborated by any witnesses whatever, was highly incredible.

His Lordship, summing up, said that it was the first time a Chinaman in the Assize Court had availed himself of the privilege of going into the box and giving evidence on oath on so serious a charge. And they must remember that it required a great deal of pluck to face the Attorney-General's cross-examination if the prisoner were not speaking the truth. He (his Lordship) could not say that the witnesses on behalf of the Crown had been altogether satisfactory: there were certain discrepancies which made it hard to believe that they spoke exactly the truth, although they probably believed that what they were telling was what they thought they saw. His Lordship said if the jury believed that it was prisoner who chased deceased, that a quarrel followed, and this led to the wounds being given, they must find him guilty of murder. But if they believed that the two men had a quarrel, there was a pursuit, and something of which they were not quite clear happened, it was their duty to bring in a verdict of "manslaughter."

The jury returned a verdict of "manslaughter," with a recommendation to mercy.

His Lordship said, having regard to the recommendation to mercy, and the circumstances of the case, he should sentence prisoner to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The sessions were adjourned until 4th January.

THE ROBBERY AT THE EWO COTTON COMPANY'S OFFICE.

Inquiries made by the Police, and the report of Mr. Alfred Shaw, manager of the Ewo Cotton Company, show that the attempt to rob the office of that Company was made by a gang of burglars who were familiar with the surroundings. When Mr. Shaw entered his office at 5.30 on Wednesday morning he found the drawer of his desk broken open, and on making a search found that \$15 had been taken. He saw also that the large iron safe had been bound with ropes to which were attached a bamboo pole, the intention of the burglars evidently being to carry the safe away. On the floor he found a canvas bag containing an old file, some wire and torch paper, and in a search outside the office the police found three pairs of Chinese shoes concealed in some bushes. With the exception of the \$15 mentioned, nothing had been removed from the office, an alarm probably having hastened the departure of the robbers before they had completed their work. An Indian watchman informed the police that an hour previous to the arrival of Mr. Shaw he saw three Chinese rush through the main gates and run in the direction of Causeway Bay. Detectives are now investigating the matter.

INTERESTING EXTRADITION ARGUMENT.

The hearing was continued before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 14th inst., of the application for the surrender of Tse Choi Chai to the Chinese Government on charges of armed robbery and murder.

The application was made by Mr. H. L. Dennys, of the Crown Solicitor's office, and Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Morrell, after the closing of the case for the prosecution, submitted that the defendant was entitled to his discharge inasmuch as the prosecution had failed to prove one of the essentials of extradition, and that was that the defendant was a subject of China. There was not a word of evidence to that effect, and the case was closed.

Mr. Dennys.—I take it that the case is not closed while the cross-examination of a witness is still open. With reference to the point raised, I would call your Worship's attention to a provision of the Ordinance which states that the identity of a fugitive criminal must be given to the satisfaction of the Magistrate.

Mr. Morrell—As your Worship well knows, in cases of this description it must be proved that the criminal is a native of China. That was held in the case of Wong Ka Chuen.

Mr. Dennys—I submit your Worship would not have issued that order unless you were satisfied that the prisoner was a subject of China.

His Worship—The great majority of Chinese are subjects of China, and the evidence shows that he has been seen at the place where the robbery took place.

Mr. Dennys asked permission to recall a witness from the Heungshan Magistracy on the point.

Mr. Morrell—I don't see what he can prove.

His Worship—There must be some *prima facie* evidence. I will allow the last witness to be recalled.

Chan Shing said the defendant told him, he came from Sunning. Witness had known him for seven or eight years.

Mr. Dennys—I submit, your Worship, that that is sufficient *prima facie* evidence.

Mr. Morrell—My friend has got to prove that the defendant is a subject of China. Extradition in itself tends to be a breach of the British flag, and has to be treated very carefully. It is absolutely absurd to say, on this evidence, that the defendant is a subject of China. I might live in Germany, for seven or eight years, but that would not be evidence that I was a German.

His Worship—In this case I think it is evidence, having regard to custom.

Mr. Morrell—Your Worship knows the custom of the Chinese. If you ask a man where he comes from he might say Heungshan. Then if you ask him where he was born, he might say Hongkong.

His Worship—I think there is *prima facie* evidence.

Mr. Dennys—This man is a very well known robber.

Mr. Morrell—My friend has no business to say that.

Mr. Dennys—According to this case he is a robber.

Mr. Morrell—I must object to my friend making such statements.

Mr. Dennys—It is not easy to get evidence of the sort which my friend suggests, but which could be obtained in England or Germany if we were dealing with English or German subjects. In China it is a perfectly different case. I say the evidence in this case is quite sufficient as it stands. It has not been contradicted by my friend that this man is a robber and goes about with others to attack houses.

Mr. Morrell—There it is again. My friend practically admits, that he does not know where the man comes from. In extradition we only hand over to China people who are subjects of China, and it is up to the prosecution to prove that the defendant is a subject of China, or at all events he must give very substantial evidence. Otherwise, it is simply putting the man to the expense of taking *habeas corpus* proceedings.

His Worship—I think there is *prima facie* evidence.

Mr. Morrell—If your Worship thinks so, I will have to apply for *habeas corpus*.
Mr. Morrell then cross-examined a witness and the hearing was further adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A SENSATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR.—Renter's telegram which appears in your issue of Tuesday has been the cause of immense excitement amongst the shipping community and the pig dealers.

It is rumoured that applications for space have poured in to a well known line to such an alarming extent that no more room is available for next year.

The rate of freight and price of pigs has increased by leaps and bounds, and it is firmly believed that so soon as the railways in China are more developed, special steamers will be built for the conveyance to Europe of this class of cargo.

No doubt capitalists at home will be induced to pay their attention to this matter, and it is asserted on good authority, that several syndicates are being formed locally to develop the trade. Trusting this may be of some interest to your readers.—Yours faithfully.

NONCENTS.

A HONGKONG BOY AT OXFORD

Our London correspondent writes:—I hear that Mr. Arthur Dyer Ball, the elder son of Mr. J. Dyer Ball, I.S.O., is doing well at Oxford, having gone up to the University from Mill Hill last year. It is his intention to enter the Indian Civil Service, and already he is "eating dinners" at one of the Temples to qualify for the Bar.

He is playing regularly in the Oxford hockey team, and will probably get his half-blue against Cambridge this winter. Oxford beat Southampton by two goals to one and Leicester by nine goals to nil. A critic of the matches writes in one of the leading papers:—

"Oxford University do not seem able to produce a good forward line. F. G. Mirtfield, who is the only one of last year's line, is also the only one to show anything like first-class form. At outside left, A. D. Ball is fairly good, and will doubtless improve, but Marcon, Brooks and Murray are very weak. At Leicester, the forward line showed better combination, but suffer somewhat from the weakness of Mathew at centre-half in attack."

A GAMBLERS' RETREAT.

The small island of Chinchau is well-known by the Police to be a rendezvous of gamblers, but, owing to the constant and strict watch kept by the lawbreakers, it is seldom that a school is surprised. The method adopted by Sergeant Gordon, on Dec. 15, however, turned out successful, and as a result six gamblers were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday, one of the conductors of the game being a village elder. So cautious are the gamblers on this island that they scent danger in the arrival of any strange sampan, and in such event play is immediately stopped. But the arrival of a little dug-out in the bay, with what appeared to be a few fishermen on board, called for nothing more than passing notice, and for some four hours this dug-out plied backwards and forwards along the shore. Eventually it was beached hard by the Temple, before which a village elder and another native were conducting a game of *pochee*, in which numerous natives were participating. So interested were the gamblers in their play that they did not notice the arrival of Sergeant Gordon and his *lukongs*. The alarm was given, however, just as the police were upon them, and immediately there was a stampede. The police succeeded in capturing the conductors of the game and four of the players, and yesterday Mr. Kemp fined the first two defendants \$20 each, and each of the players \$10.

BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL.

VERNACULAR SIDE.

The annual prize distribution of the vernacular side of the Belilios Public School took place on the 19th inst., and attracted a large attendance of Orientals and Occidentals. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, presided, and a programme of songs and recitations was furnished by the pupils.

Mr. Wolfe, after the prize presentation, congratulated the pupils on the year's work. He was glad that the school was not only increasing in numbers, but in efficiency. In 1906, he said, the average attendance was 187; last year it was 237. This year the attendance had decreased slightly—about 237.27. The highest enrolment last year was not over 300. In February of this year there were over 360 names in the books of the school. The decrease in attendance was due to the bad outbreak of plague. He hoped plague would not return next year to spoil the attendance, which otherwise was on the increase. There was this to be considered. Now that the attendance was on the increase the Government had been forced to increase the number of teachers, but their number was still too small, and in spite of the decision of the Retrenchment Committee and other unpleasant things of that kind, the school staff was to be further increased. In conclusion, Mr. Wolfe congratulated the headmaster and his assistants on the school's efficiency and hoped that it would be maintained.

The Inspector's report on the school read as follows:—

Discipline and Organization.—The discipline is very good and there is a noticeable change in this respect in the lower standards.

Organization.—The work of the school continues to be very satisfactory. There is, however, a tendency especially in the lower standards to try and do too much, e.g., in composition the answers were very long but often not to the point and not written in the best style. Shorter, more concise, answers in good Chinese would have raised the standard of this work materially.

The work of the lower classes should not be left entirely to the mistresses. The masters who teach the upper standards should give a series of lessons every week in the lower standards. The pupils will then be able to enlarge their stock of ideas especially in composition.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, on the 1st December 1908.

Present.—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), J. S. Fenwick, Huang Ts'an-chew, N. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson, and the Secretary, C. Berkeley Mitchell.

1. The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

2. A letter is read from Mr. C. A. V. Bowra resigning his seat on the Council on his transfer from the Port. The Secretary is directed in acknowledging receipt to express to Mr. Bowra the Council's regret at his departure, and thank him for the services he has rendered the Community during the past three years, as a member of the Council.

3. A letter is read from the Land Commissioners reporting their completion of the revaluation of property in the Settlement, and the Secretary is instructed to write and thank the Commissioners for their labours in the matter.

4. The Superintendent of Police reports only one case, that of an assault, has been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting, as the Court has been closing owing to the Chinese Official world being in mourning for the late Dowager Empress and Emperor.

His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—Ordinance No. 19 of 1908.—An Ordinance to amend The Fire Insurance Companies Ordinance 1908; Ordinance No. 20 of 1908.—An Ordinance to amend The Interpretation Ordinance 1897 and to remove an ambiguity in the construction of the same; and Ordinance No. 21 of 1908.—An Ordinance to amend The Companies Ordinance 1865.

THE HONGKONG COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

A telegram we publish in another column to-day reports that the China Society in London has resolved to petition the Colonial Office to subsidise a medical school for Hongkong. This resolution was the outcome of a lecture on Chinese medicine by Dr. Cantlie, and as our representative was informed in an interview with the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai yesterday, was indirectly brought about by the exertions of Dr. J. C. Thomson, secretary to the Hongkong College of Medicine, during his last holiday in England. When Dr. Thomson went home on leave, one of his objects was to appeal to old China hands for an endowment fund for the Hongkong College of Medicine. The Court of this College hoped to be able to raise sufficient at home to guarantee the appointment of one or two professors for a term of five years. Dr. Thomson approached Sir Patrick Manson, Dr. Hartigan, Dr. Cantlie and other prominent medics and pointed out that it was the desire of the Court of the Hongkong College of Medicine to have that institution placed on a footing that would justify a demand for recognition of its qualification by the General Medical Council of Great Britain. To acquire this distinction suitably equipped buildings and specially qualified lecturers on anatomy and physiology were an essential preliminary. There was no lack of students, but what the Court wanted was a minimum capital sum of \$150,000 as an endowment for the College. With this amount, the Government annual grant and students' fees it would be possible to engage the services of duly qualified teachers of anatomy and physiology as well as improve arrangements for the teaching of other subjects. Licentiates of the College, it was pointed out, were exerting a wide and a widening influence towards the breaking down of Chinese prejudices and obstruction to a better sanitation.

As the result of the Doctor's appeal a strong committee was formed in England, including the doctors above-named, and Surgeon-General Eratt, Surgeon-General Paterson, Sir Thomas Jackson, Prof. W. J. Simpson, Mr. R. E. Belilios, &c., and certain resolutions for the promotion of the subject in view were passed, the latest result of those being the telegram we publish in another column.

When a *Daily Press* representative called on Dr. Ho Kai yesterday to inquire whether the committee of the proposed University had approached the Colonial Office for a subsidy, he was informed that they had not. The Doctor stated further that ways and means in connection with the University project were still under consideration, and that no doubt if a university was established here, the Hongkong College of Medicine would become the nucleus of it. In appreciation of the excellence of the training at the Hongkong College of Medicine Dr. Ho Kai stated that the claims of two licentiates of this College who went home recently, to be admitted by the Joint Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh to their final examination without further qualifications had been acknowledged.

These licentiates are now studying for the degrees of M.B., Ch. B. in Edinburgh University and the Senate of the University has admitted them to a two years' curriculum, this concession being the utmost possible to the University under its regulations. The Joint Board of Preliminary Examiners for the Scottish Universities has admitted them to study in Edinburgh without further preliminary examination, and the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom has ante-dated their medical registration in Great Britain to the beginning of their curricula of study in Hongkong, to permit of their availing themselves of the shortened period of study granted by the Edinburgh University. "We only require a little help," said Dr. Ho Kai in conclusion, "to make our licentiates equal to any at home."

Singapore has recently been in the throes of a Municipal election. A Singapore paper tells its readers that "excitement was extense," but we note that the four gentlemen elected received only 67, 39, 38 and 22 votes respectively.

THE NEW PEAK TRAMWAY.

THE PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED ROUTE.

Following is the text of the petition of the Roman Catholic community of Hongkong against the proposed alteration in the route of the new Peak tramway:—

To His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable the Legislative Council of Hongkong.

The Humble Petition of Domenico Pozzoni, Vicar Apostolic of the Roman Catholic Community of Hongkong. Sheweth:—

1. There is before the Legislative Council a Bill the object of which is to authorize the construction of a Tramway from Victoria to the Peak.

2. The route of the said Tramway is, your Petitioner is informed, proposed to be as marked in blue lines on the plan instead of the route marked on the said plan in red lines as originally proposed.

3. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is the principal place of worship for the Catholic Community of Hongkong and is situated on the East side of the Public Gardens.

4. Divine service or other religious observances take place daily in the said Cathedral.

5. It is essential to the due and reverent performance of such services and observances that there should be at such times an absolute absence of noise in such Cathedral and in the immediate neighbourhood thereof.

6. Your Petitioner is informed that it is proposed to carry the said Tramway for a considerable portion of its length on a steel trestle viaduct 60 feet or thereabouts in height directly in front of the principal entrance to the said Cathedral and within 10 yards or thereabouts thereof, and your Petitioner is informed and believes that the noise caused by cars passing over a trestle viaduct and the noise occasioned by the traction cables passing over the guide pulleys will be so loud as to be distracting to the devotion of those engaged in prayer, or in other religious observances in the said Cathedral. And further that such distracting noise will be almost continuous when cars are running on the said Tramway.

7. The said Roman Catholic Community on behalf of which your Petitioner presents this Petition numbers upward of Seven thousand persons.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that the proposed route of the said Tramway as marked in blue lines on the said plan be not approved and that your Petitioner may be heard by Counsel in opposition thereto and have leave to call witnesses in support of such opposition when the said Bill comes before Your Excellency and the Legislative Council for consideration in Committee.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Dated the 30th day of November, 1908.

DOMENICO POZZONI,

Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong.

on behalf of the Roman Catholic Community.

COXSWAIN'S REWARD FOR BRAVERY.

At the Magistracy on Dec. 19th Mr. Kemp ordered the payment of \$5 out of the poor box to the coxswain of the steam launch *Willy* for his bravery in attempting to save the life of a Chinese woman. It will be remembered that on the 9th instant, after the *Willy* had cast off from the wharf at Kowloon City in very rough weather, a Chinese woman carrying a number of buckets on a bamboo pole rushed on to the wharf with the object of catching the departing launch. The strong wind prevailing at the time blew her into the sea and she grasped one of the buckets to save herself, and retained her hold when it filled and sank. The coxswain of the *Willy* put his launch about with the object of picking her up, but finding that he would be unable to do this, dived into harbour after her. Unfortunately, however, his gallant attempt was unsuccessful. Nevertheless it was not allowed to pass unrecognised, for in addition to the \$5 paid to the coxswain by order of the Magistrate, a similar amount has been paid to him by His Excellency the Governor in appreciation of his action.

A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT.

A PRISONER'S HEROICS.

Our Canton correspondent writes:—

A plot to overthrow the dynasty having been recently discovered in the Province of Hunan strict instructions were wired to all the provinces in China to exercise special vigilance. Revolutionary pamphlets have been widely circulated of late, and thousands of them have poured into Canton through the Imperial Chinese and Foreign Post Offices. The Viceroy himself received a copy by post.

The military authorities and the Police were ordered to effect the arrest of all suspicious characters. Two men, who are described as reformers, both natives of Hunan Province were arrested here last week. One named Kot Him, was tried by Admiral Li Tsun the other day. He refused to kneel and simply asked for a seat, and pen and ink to write his confession.

The following is a translation of his confession:—

"I am 24 years of age and a native of the Sheung Hoing Village in the Province of Hunan. I was educated in Japan and went through the training for military officers there and hold a military diploma. When in Japan, I attended lectures given by Dr. Sun Yat Sen, and became sympathetic towards the anti-dynastic movement. On my return to China I travelled and realized that the picture drawn by Sun Yat Sen was true. I came down South and went first to Lim-Chow and Yau-Chow Prefectures to find General Kwok, the leader of Sun's Army. Unfortunately I did not succeed in finding him. I was penniless and became ill. I wanted to return to Hunan Province, but had no money. When I arrived in Canton I stayed with Tam Ma Ping in the same hotel. We were colleagues, but we each had our special mission. Tam distributes pamphlets and recruits partisans amongst the military. Our party comprises men of education and rank, but we all stoop when necessary to find adherents. We even join military bodies and take up employments as cooks, coolies, &c. My opinion of China is that the country has lowered itself greatly through Manchu tyranny and treating the descendants of Han (the Chinese) as slaves, cows, or horses. Hence our anger and grief. Our intention is to combine and give vent to our grievances. We consider the Manchus as our enemies and hate them. That is why we have formed a revolutionary society. We are now taking advantage of China's weakness to start a revolution. We do not care for our lives. We will muster up our energy and are prepared to die fighting. We wish for a civilized China. To attain this great end we must be united, but the hearts of the people do not beat together. There are the Ko Lo Society, the Sam Tin Society and Hung's party (the Taipings) which they form the majority of the Association in China, but the Ko Lo Society and the present revolutionary Society differ somewhat in their aims. The Ko Lo Association are uncivilized; they still kidnap, and rob people and have no education nor experience. They make no distinction between the Manchus and the Hans. We are now enlightening them with a view to their joining forces with us in order to successfully accomplish our great object. If we succeed the people will be emancipated and enjoy peace and happiness for ever."

Questioned as to the objects of the revolutionists he repeated the above statement. When asked the names of his associates he replied that he preferred to die rather than disclose them. He further said:—Death will be a pleasure to me. My blood only will flow and my comrades will pursue their great task. From what I have learned of European revolutions, plenty of blood must be spilled before success is attained. I am not the first to die for the cause; many have died for it already. I will carry my ideas to the grave with me. I refuse to answer any more questions. Execute me as soon as possible."

The publication in the Chinese papers of these heroics will do more to popularize the movement than the broadcast distribution of a million pamphlets. Kot's attitude is sure to command admiration and he will doubtless be regarded worthy to rank with the patriots of all countries who have died as martyrs in the cause of liberty.

DEATH OF SIR EWEN CAMERON.

The news of the death of Sir Ewen Cameron will be received with genuine regret by many foreign residents in China.

He is one of those who have helped to make the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank what it is, and his remarkable ability was acknowledged on all hands, but by none more generously than those in whose interests he worked so devotedly, as was demonstrated at the meeting of shareholders held at Hongkong, on 18th February, 1908, when Mr. A. J. Raymond, the Chairman, in his speech to the shareholders said:—

"I have now to refer to a matter which I am sure you will all be sorry to hear about, and that is the retirement of Sir Ewen Cameron, our Senior Manager in London. He has been stricken with a severe illness and was very anxious that the Directors should accept his resignation. I need hardly say that it was only in deference to his own wishes that we acceded to his request, and we did so with great reluctance, deep regret and sincere sympathy for himself and family.

"Sir Ewen Cameron's name will have a prominent place in the history of the Bank; he joined here in 1867, shortly after the Bank was started, and he had had a very large share in raising it to its present position. (Applause). His ability, tact and kindly disposition commanded success wherever he has served the Bank. Many of you will remember him as Manager in Shanghai, where, as also in the North of China, he did so much to build up our business. I can look back myself 24 years in Shanghai and at that time there was no better known or more popular resident in the settlement than Mr. (as he then was) Ewen Cameron.

"A man of broad views and sound judgment, he took a prominent part in negotiating the early loans issued by the Bank for the Imperial Chinese Government, and the friendly relations which were then established between that Government and the Bank, I am glad to say, exist to-day and I hope will always continue. Since he went to London he has also taken the leading part there in negotiating the various Chinese and Japanese Government loans which it has been the Bank's good fortune to be so prominently associated with. His marvellous energy and whole-hearted devotion to the general interest of the Bank, and that of its shareholders, are well known to you all, but perhaps nowhere has he done better service than in the City of London, where he made many good and influential friends for the Bank."

Since his retirement from active service Sir Ewen Cameron was a member of the London Committee.

Sir Ewen Cameron, K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., who was 67 years of age, was born in Muckovic, Inverness-shire, and in 1878 married Josephine, daughter of the late John Houschen Thelford, Norfolk.

FOOCHOW RACES.

The annual races at Foochow were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The honours of the meeting have gone to "Heraldic," owner "Mr. Ewo." This pony won five races at the recent meeting at Hankow, and at the Foochow meeting he secured first place in four including the Champion Stakes, the Foochow Stakes, the Big Sweep Cup and the Oswald Challenge Cup.

Captain Hope won seven races—three with "Capital," two with "Marvellous" one with "Superb" and one with "Spots."

Following is a full list of the winning ponies:—

PONY	OWNER	FIRSTS.
Heraldic,...	Mr. Ewo	4
Capital,...	Capt. Hope	3
Marvellous,...	"	2
Piper,...	Mr. Min	2
Kirby,...	Father O'Flynn	2
Mokawki Chief	"	1
Superb,...	Captain Hope	1
Spots,...	"	1
Raffles,...	Mr. Powel-Grant	1
Kangaroo,...	Mr. Wallaby-Wallaby	1
Gamechick,...	Mr. Oswald	1
Kandahar Chief,...	Mr. Min	1
Frosty Morn,...	"	1

SHIPPING NOTES.

Something like 1,300 lives were lost by the foundering of the Japanese steamers *Ginaci-maru* and *Nagata-maru*, off Chefoo, and a Chinese steamer of 2,000 tons which sank in the same gale three weeks ago off the Elliot Group of islands. There appears to have been only one Chinese survivor. The Chinese ship alone had 600 coolies on board.

Captain R. Swain, the well-known commander of the N.Y.K. s.s. *Kasuga-maru*, has been transferred to the command of the *Nikko-maru* and is succeeded by Captain W. Winkler on the *Kasuga-maru*. The change was caused by the transfer of Capt. A. E. Moses from the command of the *Nikko-maru* to that of the *Mishima-maru* which is now being completed for at the Kawasaki Dockyard and is to be placed in the European service.

The Mitsu Bishi Dockyard and Engine Works at Nagasaki turned over another fine steamer to her owners on the 1st December, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha flag being hoisted on the s.s. *Hirano-maru*, a sister-ship of the *Kamo-maru* which has nearly completed her maiden voyage to Europe and has won a high reputation as a comfortable passenger liner. The *Hirano-maru* is a twin-screw steamer of 8,600 tons, with a speed of 16½ knots. Captain H. Fraser assumed command of the vessel on the 1st inst. She is scheduled to commence her maiden voyage to Europe to-day (the 16th inst.).

A Japanese paper states that the four companies—British, Japanese, Austrian and Italian—hitherto engaged in the Indo-Japanese carrying trade, have renewed their pooling arrangement. The Austrian and the Italian Companies broke away in September, but, in the sequel of conferences recently held in London, the union has been re-cemented, the P. & O. and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha agreeing to reduce their voyages from 48 to 36 annually, and the two other Companies making 17 sailings per year.

The drop in the rate on flour from Tacoma to Hongkong announced a month ago is explained in the Tacoma papers to be due partly to a belief that rates were being secretly cut at Portland, as the Puget Sound shipments had recently been extremely right, and partly to heavy off the competition of tramp tonnage. The rate was reduced from \$3.50 to \$3 per ton.

In order to meet the increasing demands for extensive docking accommodation on the part of the large liners which visit the port, the Yokohama Dock Company, Ltd., have just completed a new mooring basin, while a new dry dock, No. 3, is in course of construction. The length of the new mooring basin to the present dam is 477ft. 2in.; it is 100ft. wide, and has a depth at low water of 26ft. 10in. The dock now being constructed provides accommodation for vessels 48ft. long; the breadth of entrance at high-water will be 66ft. 10in.; and depth at high water on the sill 22ft. 10in., and on the blocks 21ft. 4½.

We are informed that the magnificent new triple screw steel steamer *Chiyo Maru*, of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, will be due to arrive in Hongkong on the 21st December, and will inaugurate her initial voyage on the Trans-Pacific run starting from Hongkong on December 25th. This palatial steamer is a sister ship of the s.s. *Tenyo Maru*, for several months in the service, and is equipped with all the very latest modern improvements known to the maritime world. She is an oil burner of the latest approved type, equipped with wireless telegraph apparatus and luxuriously furnished throughout without regard to expense. This steamer will sail from Hongkong on the run of the s.s. *Hongkong Maru*, which will proceed to Japan for extensive repairs and improvements before being again placed in the service.

The telegrams to the Indian papers respecting the burning of the Payayanni Line steamer *Sardinia* show that the fire broke out when she

was but a mile out from Malta bound for Egypt. Two hundred and fifty people were on board. The passengers and crew were seized with panic and jumped overboard. A strong wind interfered with the rescue work and many perished. The ship was beached. She was kept off the harbour owing to the danger of a powder-magazine explosion. Thirty Europeans and 40 Arabs were saved, and 23 Europeans and about 100 Arabs, mostly pilgrims, were drowned. The Captain and crew behaved gallantly. The Captain was drowned. The disaster was witnessed by thousands on the shore. Volcano-like eruptions of smoke and flames took place when the vessel struck the rock. The high sea and falling sparks made it dangerous for pinnaces to approach, while the terrified Arabs refused to jump into the sea. The *Sardinia* was enveloped in flames amidships within ten minutes, and the hatches were blown off, killing many. The engine room staff perished below, their escape being cut off. The engines were kept going until the vessel grounded.

The substantial orders placed for new ships with Clyde builders have been the primary cause of a better aspect of affairs at Glasgow. Orders to the aggregate of 120,000 tons were known to have been placed in September, but October did not come out so well. Perhaps the most outstanding orders were those from the Russian Volunteer Fleet, five vessels of 8,000 tons each having been contracted for by a Greenock firm. The money value will be £360,000. The steamers are to form part of two services by the Volunteer Fleet, Vladivostok-Tsura and Vladivostok-Shanghai. Shipowners, remarks a Glasgow correspondent, are evidently of opinion that freights will improve with the spring, and that it will be the newest and best equipped that will fare best in the competition for trade. At all events, with some shipbuilders willing to build serviceable cargo-boats on the basis of £5 per ton, the investment would appear to offer not a little temptation and promise of a good return in normal times.

THE NEW POWER IN CHINA.

The story of the *likin* incident at Foochow furnishes food for reflection. In its original conception the boycott did not inflict any loss on the boycotters, or, at all events, it inflicted only an infinitesimally small loss. The sufferer was the boycotted, who found himself practically ostracised. But the boycott, as used by the Chinese, has boomerang-like power: it causes mainly loss to the persons practising it. That was not absolutely true of the first boycott, namely that directed against American articles. These were not without rivals in the markets of China, and consequently it was only a case of turning from one class of manufactures to another. The second boycott, however, namely, that directed against Japan, hurt the Chinese very palpably, for the marine products which they purchase from the Japanese in very large quantities do not find any sufficient substitute, and thus not only the Chinese dealers in such commodities but also their Chinese consumers, were subjected to heavy loss, and seriously inconvenienced. A climax was reached in the case of the third boycott, however. There the Chinese merchants of Foochow may be said to have decided upon committing deliberate suicide and slaughtering their foreign confreres at the same time, for the sake of slightly embarrassing the local officials. They declared, in effect, that they would cease to carry on the trade by which they earned a livelihood, merely for the sake of preventing the officials from levying a small tax upon it. Yet they counted justly; for the authorities surrendered incontinently. Is it pessimistic to say that this Amoy spectacle suggests grave ground for uneasiness? Against what grievance, real or imaginary, will not the Chinese direct the new weapon which has appealed so strongly to their fancy? They are the only people, with the solitary exception of the Irish, that have ever had recourse to the boycott, and it is strange enough to find the Chinese taking a leaf out of the book of the Irish agitators. Diplomacy evidently has to reckon with a new factor.—*Japan Mail*

UNEMPLOYMENT IN JAPAN.

PITIFUL FLIGHT OF OPERATIVES.

Referring to the factory operatives thrown out of employment in consequence of the prevailing trade depression, the *Osaka Asahi* points out that cotton-spinning companies in this country, numbering 39 in all, with a capital aggregating ¥86,500,000 and having 1,600,000 spindles among them, are reduced to a very trying position on account of the depression of trade with China and at home. The total number of operatives employed at spinning mills in January last was 16,671 males and 68,592 females. At the end of June the number had been reduced by about 14,900. The number was further reduced by the end of October last, when male operatives numbered 14,825 and female operatives 54,893. The rate of wages, however, remained almost unchanged, the males being paid between 40 and 50 sen each per day and the females between 24 and 30 sen on an average, a little higher than last spring. Meanwhile thousands of discharged operatives seeking employment do not know where to turn for a living. The pruning-knife of dismissal has not only been applied to spinning operatives, but also to those engaged in shipbuilding, who have suffered severely. A similar fate has also overtaken those employed in the manufacture of matches and knitted goods, in dyeing, weaving, making hemp-rope, and other manufacturing industries. It is very hard for so large a number of poor operatives to be thrown out of employment now that the winter is coming on. Fortunately, society is not so cruel as might be supposed. Trained operatives and even unskilled labourers are finding employment in various directions. Government works are attracting the unemployed to a large extent, and employment is being found at the Military and Naval Arsenal, the Printing Bureau, the Imperial Mint, and the tobacco factories. While many Government works have been postponed, certain parts must be carried out at once. For instance, large tobacco factories are being built in Tokyo and Osaka, and the construction of these is providing employment. Moreover, the latter prefer Government works to private factories, as they feel more secure at the former. The extension of the northern factory of the Osaka Tobacco Works has been completed, and the announcement calling for over 300 workers was quickly responded to by operatives recently thrown out of employment. The wages paid at the tobacco factory are nearly the same as at cotton-spinning mills, but when two months have elapsed during which the workers will learn the business payment is to be made by piece instead of by time.—*Japan Chronicle*.

LIBEL ACTIONS IN CHINA AND JAPAN.

The action for libel brought by Mr. E. T. Bethell against the *N.C. Daily News*, which was concluded on Thursday in the Supreme Court at Shanghai, with a verdict in the plaintiff's favour, \$3,000 damages being awarded, is, we gather, one of several actions contemplated by Mr. Bethell. Three Hongkong newspapers reproduced from our Shanghai contemporary the Tokyo telegram containing that libel. It did not appear in the *Daily Press*. In view of the general unreliability of the news being sent at the time by Japanese press correspondents at Seoul, the statement made in the telegram seemed to anyone knowing Mr. Bethell so highly improbable that we deemed it more prudent to wait the arrival of the full report of the case. When that came we found our doubts were fully justified. In Japan actions for libel have been filed against two newspapers by Mr. W. T. R. Preston, Commissioner of Trade for the Dominion of Canada, and 20,000 yen is claimed from each. The newspapers concerned are the *Japan Herald* in Yokohama and the *Japan Chronicle* in Kobe. The ground of action is the publication of an extract from the *Victoria Daily Colonist*, in which it was alleged that Mr. Preston was in Japan working in the interests of Japanese emigration to Canada.

REVIEWS.

Young China. By the Ven. Archdeacon MOULE. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

We know of no publication which conveys so much interesting information on child life in China as this charming little volume by Archdeacon Moule. The book is written in a simple and engaging style and should command a large sale at this time of the year as a Christmas present for boys or girls. The chapters are interspersed with illustrations reproduced from original drawings by a gifted Chinese artist. We are indebted to Messrs. Kelly & Walsh for a copy of the book.

The Far East Re-visited. By A. GORDON ANGIER. London: Witherby.

The author is the Editor of the *London and China Express*, and this book of 350 odd pages contains the series of letters written by Mr. Angier on his recent visit to the Far East which were published in his journal during 1907 and 1908. They deal with Malaya, China, Korea and Japan, and they are unhesitatingly recommended by Sir Robert Hart in a brief preface to all who are interested in the affairs of the Far East. We can certainly confirm Sir Robert Hart when he says that Mr. Angier describes places and communities in a graphic manner, and deals with occurrences intelligently and fairly. Sir Robert also adds that Mr. Angier "had the advantage of revisiting the East when the new forces let loose by this century were and are arranging themselves in logical continuity for further evolution and what he has said of the condition and doings brought to his notice is well worth the attention both of students and practical men, and will also be found informing and interesting by the general reader." The book is indeed a storehouse of information on Eastern affairs, and, without necessarily endorsing all that the author has to say, we welcome the republication of Mr. Angier's letters in this convenient and more permanent form. Between thirty and forty half-tone illustrations are interspersed throughout the book, but the view of Hongkong must surely be the worst that could be found in any photographer's collection: it would pass very well for an illustration of a banyan tree.

Dan to Beersheba. By ARCHIBALD COLQUHOUN. London: Heinemann.

Few books of the kind excel in interest this volume which recounts the travels and work of Mr. Archibald Colquhoun in four continents. It is a book which holds the reader's attention from the first page to the last. Starting with a brief and interesting reference to his ancestry, the author rapidly brings the story down to his own boyhood. He writes of the Spartan discipline exacted by his father and remarks that such relations as he established with his children in early years would be considered almost inhuman now. Incidentally it explains the prominence of Scotsmen in British colonial enterprise, for, as the author says, Scotland, which had no provision for her sons beyond a good education, has thrown them out by scores upon a world in which they have carved their way to success. "We Scotsmen," he adds, "owe something to our inhospitable Motherland and our frugal homes."

The author's father went out to India in 1825 in the medical service of the East India Company and after he had been seven years in the East married an Orphan daughter of a Scottish indigo merchant. He went through the first Afghan campaign and also through the Sikh war, but, at the age of forty, he was obliged by ill-health to resign, after nineteen years' service, and return home. The author was born in a violent storm when the ship was off the Cape of Good Hope.

As a boy he had "more than the average amount of obstinacy," and the stories of his boyhood are not the least interesting part of the book. "As for my school life," Mr. Colquhoun says, "I can only recollect that I learnt nothing at all either at the Glasgow Academy or at the Helensburgh School," and he supposes that it was his appalling ignorance and apathy which induced his father to send him to Neuwied on the Rhine, the school of the Moravian Fathers. While there he was

"on the defensive all the time" and his career at Neuwied might have developed, as at previous schools, into an absolute struggle against being taught anything, but for the intervention of a man who had the precious gift of insight, and spoke to him as "man to man" on one occasion when he was to have received a well-merited punishment. To that professor's insight the author attributes the fact that he became quite proficient in the German language and got a very sound education generally of the commercial sort. His father had intended that he should have a commercial career but the tales of adventures in India, to which he had constantly listened (and many of which are related in this volume), made life in Scotland "too tame for words." Eventually he was shipped to India as a black sheep, and did not return to Scotland for twelve years in which time he had carved out a career of promise for himself and was on the full tide of prosperity.

This carries us through the first hundred pages of the volume, but interesting as the genealogical and autobiographical details are, the thrilling stories of the Indian campaigns and amusing anecdotes which are interspersed add greatly to the interest of the record.

In the 250 pages which follow the author recounts his experiences in Burma, Siam, his exploration in Southern China with a view to finding a route to Yunnan, his mission to Tongking as a representative of the *Times* (a chapter which covers a record of the war), his work as a deputy commissioner in Upper Burma, his subsequent career in South Africa, a visit to the United States, and finally a visit to Central America.

Altogether this record of an eventful life makes a supremely interesting book, and we have much pleasure in commending it to public notice.

Mrs. FitzMaurice on Leave. By GABRIELLE FITZMAURICE. London: Greening and Co.

Gabrielle FitzMaurice is a pseudonym which hides the identity of a lady who not long ago was a resident of Hongkong. Local readers will be familiar with the style of the authoress of these cleverly written and piquant sketches which recount the experiences of the wife of an Army officer at home on a holiday. We do not think we are revealing a very close secret when we say that Gabrielle FitzMaurice is the pseudonym employed by Mrs. Bryan, wife of Major Bryan, R.A., who was stationed in Hongkong a few years ago. "Mrs. FitzMaurice on Leave" is just the book to beguile the idle half hour.

JAPAN AND THE TRADE MARKS QUESTION.

The Imperial Patent Office, Tokyo, recently gave out the following for publication:—

Translation of a circular letter addressed by the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to prefectural governors and Chairmen of Chambers of Commerce.

The sound industrial development of a nation can only be brought about by the honest and assiduous application of the people to their occupations. In the present condition of our country, it is urgently necessary to stimulate the people to prize commercial morality and to do business with unwearied diligence and attention. At this juncture His Majesty the Emperor has given an Imperial Rescript inculcating honesty and sincerity and encouraging frugality and diligence. The Rescript, deep and far reaching in its import, must be carefully remembered and strictly adhered to not only by business men but by the whole nation. On casting a glance upon our industrial and commercial circles, however, it will be seen that with the enlargement of the sphere of our business activities, vices attendant on competition have begun to make appearance. A tendency is noticeable among merchants of attempting to engross business, excluding others, and among manufacturers of producing imitated articles and adulterated goods, sacrificing without scruple the interests of others to their own small and transitory gains. Even the rights of inventions, trade marks and other industrial properties are infringed, and cases of imitation and plagiarism are often brought to our notice. Such phenomena are indeed very discouraging for the future of our industrial

developments. Moreover, cases of unauthorized appropriation of foreign trade marks commercial names, &c., are reported now and then, and petitions for remedy have been received from the aggrieved parties. It is true that among these complaints set forth by foreigners, there are some which cannot be said to be well founded from the legal point of view; but any conduct on the part of our business men that may seem dishonest or fraudulent, will bring grave results not only by discrediting our commerce and industry but also by staining our national honour. The accompanying specimens are a few examples of imitated trade marks, from which an idea may be formed of the existing state of things. Of course applications for registration of such imitated trade marks are subjected to strict examination, and anything considered by the authorities as calculated to deceive the public is rejected. But at this propitious occasion of the promulgation of the Imperial Rescript, it is considered highly desirable that our business men be persuaded to come into unison and warn one another to use only fair means in the pursuit of wealth and promotion of industry, always bearing in mind that the first principle of business is to acquire credit by honesty and diligence, and thus to make an epoch of improved morality in the history of our commercial and industrial progress. With this object in view, it is requested that you will explain to all concerned and make them understand that the rights of inventions, designs and trade marks must be respected and that unfair competition brings nothing but injurious results, at the same time warning them against the bad practice of turning out debased goods and the shortsighted policy of trying to sell shabby merchandise irrespective of price. It is also requested that you will instruct all associations of various branches of trade to take proper measures to stop dishonest dealings of the members of their respective associations.

THE TERRIBLE CALAMITY AT A STRAITS QUARRY.

The *Straits Times* of the 2nd inst. contains the following particulars of the fatalities occasioned by the premature explosion of a gelignite charge at the Pulo Ubin granite quarry reported in a *Daily Press* telegram recently:—

A fearful calamity occurred at Pulo Ubin at about 10 a.m., yesterday, resulting in the death of an Australian, after nearly twenty-four hours of intense physical suffering, the practically instantaneous death of two Chinese, and the most horrible injuries to five others, four of whom are not expected to survive.

The Municipality have three stone quarries at Pulo Ubin, and Sir John Jackson Limited, are getting stone for the new Harbour Works from two others. A force of a dozen Europeans and several hundred Chinese is kept constantly at work blasting rock and sending it over to the Teluk Ayer Reclamation.

A hole had been drilled, yesterday morning and a heavy charge of gelignite was being rammed in, when it exploded prematurely, fragments of stone dealing out death and fearful torture to those near, and tons of rock falling on two who were unable to get away.

Mr. J. Ross, one of the company's employes, who was supervising the work, had both arms blown off, both eyes destroyed, and a portion of his lower jaw carried away.

Mr. Ross also received other injuries. Two Chinese, who were buried under tons of rock, must have experienced little suffering, but the pains which must have been endured by Mr. Ross and the five Chinese survivors, who were brought over to the General Hospital immediately by one of the Company's launches, must have been beyond all possible description.

Mr. Ross died at about 9.30 a.m. to-day, and two of the Chinese, who are horribly disfigured, are not likely to survive.

The unfortunate miner who met his untimely death under such painful circumstances had been in Singapore only a month. He was an Australian. So far as is known, he is a married man.

Every precaution is taken on Pulo Ubin for the safety of the workmen, and the origin of the whole occurrence is as yet a mystery.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—There is no change in the tone of the market.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.40	to	\$5.45
" Round, Good quality ...	5.05	to	5.10
" Long	5.25	to	5.30
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	4.90	to	4.95
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	5.00	to	5.10
" White, "	5.20	to	5.30
" Fine Cargo	4.95	to	5.00

SUGAR.

Yokohama, 30th November.—There are no enquiries for imported refined, although prices for Hongkong refined are down 20 sen since last report.

Kobe, 2nd, December.—Cane.—Raw.—Java.—The market is stationary. Muscovados Basis Pol. 96 % colour 12½ is quoted at Y6.30 per picul ex ship. Formosa.—New Crop Sugar now coming to the market and prices have given way accordingly. Osaka Refined.—The Trust Sale Office held auctions on the 13th and 24th ultimo. At the first sale of 5,000 Bags offered, 4,000 were sold at an advance of from 3 to 14 sen on previous prices. In addition to this sale, 300 Bags Yokohama and 700 Bags Kobe Sugar were sold at an advance of 7 to 10 sen. At the second auction 6,000 Bags of Osaka Refined were offered, but with the exception of a lot of 500 Bags which was sold at previous rates all were withdrawn. 100 Bags Yokohama and 900 Kobe Sugar, however, were disposed of at an advance of 1 to 8 sen on last prices.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

Yokohama 30th Nov.—Cotton Yarn.—Business remains dull with little doing. Cotton Piece Goods.—Very little doing, dealers refraining from operating in anticipation of lower prices. A small forward business is reported to have been done in old chops. Woollens and Woollen Mixtures.—Owing to heavy stocks still available in Japan, there is no improvement to note. Some few enquiries have been on the market for forward contracts based on standard qualities. Textiles Generally.—Deliveries are still held, especially in Cotton Goods and Union Italians. Stocks of Greys are reported in Yokohama and Tokyo. There is much uncleared stock in Fancies in godowns generally. Raw Cotton.—Business is dull, though spinners seem to realize that bye and bye prices will be steady and that no big drop is to be expected in the near future. Rice.—Nothing new to report. Metals.—The market is at present quiet, forward business being pretty well booked up, but something can still be done at cut rates. Window Glass.—It is reported that expected arrivals have come to hand. The market is not strong, but there is still a good demand for "spot" stock. Kerosine.—Arrivals and deliveries for the second half of November show: Standard Oil Co., arrivals nil, deliveries 11,300 cases; Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals nil, deliveries 5,000 units. Sugar.—There are no enquiries for imported Refined, although prices for Hongkong Refined are down 20 sen since last Report. Flour.—Tentative enquiries have been made by buyers at limits of 15 sen per quarter sack under those of the sellers. Wheat.—A cargo of about 2,000 ton, direct importation by mills from America, is reported to be shortly due.

Kobe, 2nd, December.—Cotton.—American.—Prices have fluctuated within small limits since the early part of the past fortnight, latest quotation of "forward" middling being reported at Y30.00. Business, however, remains unchanged, there being practically no sales. "Spot" is nominal at the same rate. Indian.—Owing to the absence of demand for Yarn for both foreign and domestic consumption, mills are now purchasing for immediate requirements only, in consequence of which nothing of importance has been done in "forward" sales. "Spot" cotton closes quiet at following rate:—Broach Y26.00. Akola Y22.50. Bengal Y22.25. China.—Business is still very quiet and dull. Quotations are "Best" Y24.50. "Common" Y22.50. Shirtings.—A little business has been done in "printers," but absolutely nothing doing in other lines, and no improvement to record in the Spot market. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—There has been more enquiry during the past fortnight and some fair orders have been booked in certain Fancies for forward delivery. The Spot market has again relapsed into a very quiet state. Worsteds and Woollens.—Since last

report some business has been done for forward delivery. The market at home has recovered slightly, while very little improvement is apparent here. Deliveries are progressing very slowly. Metals.—Market dull. Rice.—Week no business doing.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. of Shanghai in their latest Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 11th December states:—Nothing has occurred during the interval to upset the views expressed in our last regarding either the present position of the market or its future prospects. There is certainly more enquiry, of a kind, but so far not the sort to lead to business. There is little question but that the recent actions of some Importers in trying to do their clients a good turn and help them out of an awkward corner has not met with the straight forward treatment that was expected, judging by past experiences of the trade, and the awakening to the fact has not been at all pleasant. Integrity seems to have become an unknown quantity in the trade out here, and everyone for himself and the devil takes the hindmost seems to be the policy now in vogue. A few timely revelations may, however, enable correctives to be applied, but it is to be feared that even in some of the later day trading too much confidence has been reposed in plausible operators who have not the wherewithal to back their sanguine anticipations, which could only by any possible means be realised by an absolute transformation of not only this market but the entire trade of the country. This must be thoroughly realised and understood by Importers before business here can be put on a satisfactory basis again. The indiscriminate booking of orders must be stopped, and Importers must try to find out for themselves what future requirements are likely to be, and not cater for the mythical demand born and bred in the brain of the latest novice who sets himself up as a native piece goods dealer. The old native Hong have been run out of the trade by such, and to put an end to the recent rec less style of trading must be the one endeavour of Importing Houses, here and their supporters. The consumption of Foreign Imports, through this Port, has suffered an almost unanimously serious decline. This is most marked in American domestics, and clearly demonstrates that the increase in imports over the abnormally low figures of 1907 was scarcely justified in Drills, Jeans and Flannels, the last named though showing an increase of 62% over the import in the previous year only advanced 10% in off-take. In this case, however, an excess of 85% in the stock does not run into very serious figures. One thing is very clearly proved and that is, with the case of Turkey Reds abnormally low prices, which must have been absolutely ruinous to some of the interested parties, do not necessarily stimulate consumption, though perhaps to a small extent they have done so in Fast Black Cotton Italians and Venetians. With the exception of Szechuen, which is said to have recently sent down a considerable sum of money for investment in Goods and Yarn, the Country is not showing much anxiety to buy, but even they are holding off at present, in the hope that prices will be more favourable, a view, however, that is not held by all fortunately, as some of the Northern men seem inclined to make speculative purchases in consequence of the orders they know are being withheld. When it is more fully realised in the Country that the change in rulers is not to be accompanied by any violent changes in the administration, but, on the contrary, everything is being done to run the Government on more liberal lines, much more confidence will be displayed, and in spite of the obstacles in the way of finance some means will be found to carry on the trade so necessary for the needs and requirements of the Country. The course of the Auctions during the interval shows that buyers are fully alive to the necessity of paying enhanced prices to compensate for the decline in Exchange, the better results exhibited at the Yuen Fong Auction on the 3rd inst., being fully confirmed by the sale this morning, when Grey, Goods, especially the heavier makes, went at very firm prices, as did also White Shirtings. The bidding was noticeably more spirited for Woollens. Privately scarcely anything has been done from first hands, and Importers would much like to see a considerable improvement in clearances, but although money is easier it is not very liquid and without it deliveries are impossible. We have even heard of cases where the money has been loaned out at high interest instead of paying for goods over due! A few more transactions in American Sheetings are reported on the basis of Tls 4.50 for 3 yard and Tls 4.20 for 3.25

yard makes amongst second hand holders. It is also rumoured some first hand sales have taken place, but we have had no confirmation of this. The Manchester market is quiet, and Cotton in Liverpool is declining, the spot quotation for Mid. American being 4.82d. spot and 4.69d. February/March option. Egyptian is down to 8½d. The Export of Plain Cottons from Manchester last month was 22,000,000 million yards. The New York market for domestics is firm. Cotton is weaker, 8.66 cen's being to-day's quotation for March option. The Yarn market is extremely quiet, with a downward tendency. Native Cotton is firm in view of the lower Exchange and restricted supplies.

EXPORTS:—

SILK.

Yokohama, 30th November.—Since last report a large business was done in raw silk at steadily advancing rates, but at the close of the week things are again quiet. After the 13th November the market for waste silk was active, but owing to a further advance demanded by Japanese dealers business during the last week has been small. Habutai.—Business in Kaga silk has been quiet. There has been some demand from the Continent for 4½ momme 23in. So far as Echizeni concerned, the month has seen a demand for 6 momme to 6½ momme in 27in., and a small demand for heavies and Twills, but other lines have been quiet. With the exception of a slight demand for 20in. in from 3 momme to 4 momme there appears to have been very little doing in Kawamata, prices remaining unchanged.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—There is no market; price \$83.50—\$84.50.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer Palermo, sailed on 16th Dec, 1908:—For Manchester—50 bales waste silk. For Liverpool—500 bales hemp. For Marseilles—200 bales hemp, 6 bales human hair. For Beyruth—77 cases fire crackers. For London—100 bales waste silk, 400 bales hemp, 250 cases china-ware, 310 cases ginger, 3 cases private effects, 8 cases rattanware.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 18th December, 1908.—The market has ruled dull during the week, with an inclination to weakness and in most cases rates show a slight decline in the absence of buyers. Sterling exchange has ruled slightly weaker, and closes at 1/8 3/16 T/F.

BANKS.—The weakness reported in our last continuing the rate, after a few further unimportant sales at \$850, fell to 845 with sales, and at time of writing shares are probably available at that rate to a limited extent. The latest Shanghai quotation is \$380 ex 73, and the London rate £82.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions after further small sales at 835, were done at 810, the market closing with sales at the latter rate. China Traders are enquired for at 87½. Yangtzes have improved to 16½ with buyers and no local sales. North China have further advanced to 105 and buyers at the rate remain unsatisfied. Canton after small sales at 197½ close with buyers at 195.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have been placed at the reduced rate of 325, while Chinas have improved further to 107 with buyers, after sales at 105 & 106.

SHIPPING.—With the exception of Shells, which have receded to 47½ we have no changes or business to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—We have no changes or business to report.

MINING.—Raub have declined to 9 with sales, and close with sellers. Charbonnages have advanced to \$595 with buyers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—A few Kowloon Wharfs have changed hands at 43 the market closing fairly steady at that rate. New Amoy Docks are enquired for at 9½. Shanghai Docks have declined to 73, and Hong-kew Wharfs to 135 in the north. H. & W. Docks continue quite out of favour and neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hong-kong Lands have fallen to 92 with sellers. Hotels are still wanted at 80 without bringing any shares on the market. Shanghai Lands have improved to 117.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos has been sold locally at 73 cum dividend of Tls. 5 paid on the 16th inst., and have since improved in the north to 75 ex dividend, the rise being attributed by our private advices, to a speculative demand. Laou Kung Mows have receded to 66 and Soy Chees have improved to 270. Hongkong Cottons continue with sellers at 10.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Campbell Moores are enquired for at 9, China Providents at 9½. Electrics at 18½, the last after sales at that rate. Union Water Boats at 10, and Watkins at 2. Watsons have improved to 9½ after sales at 9½. Ices are easier with sellers at 225. Chinese Engineerings have improved to 17½ with buyers and no shares obtainable.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$850, sellers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$8, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$5, sellers \$5½, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.75, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 75
Hongkong	\$10	\$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 68, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 270, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$22½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$43, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$91, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 73, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 135
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$190, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$184, sales & buy.
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$30, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$225, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$24, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$195, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$5.07, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 105, buyers
Union	\$100	\$840, sellers
Yangtze	\$50	\$165, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$92, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$94, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Pos. 250	\$595, buyers
Raub	18/10	\$9
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 \$1 }	{ \$14 \$2 }
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$112½, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$20, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$14, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$294, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	{ \$37 sellers \$17 sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	47½, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24
Do. New	\$5	\$15, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$7	\$4, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$2, sales & buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Do. Founders	\$10	230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

3rd December, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$887½, sellers
National of China	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½ T125	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$810, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 100, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$172½, sales
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$103, buyers
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. def. }	{ £10 £10 }	{ Tls. 38, buyers £23.50, sellers
Shell Trans. (ord.)	21	\$23.50, sellers
& Trading { pref. ord. }	{ 10 10 }	{ Tls. 48, sales Tls. 51, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 79, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$49, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 85, sellers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ £1 18/10 }	{ \$8, sellers Tls. 15½, sales
Chinese Eng. & Min.	21	
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 117, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$90, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104, sellers
Wei-hai-wei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100, buyers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	
International	T75	Tls. 60, sales
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 65, sales
Soy Chee	T50	Tls. 265, buyers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 117, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 40, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 45, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$10, sellers
Maatschappij, & Co. in Langkat	Gs. 100	
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	
S'hai Waterworks	£20	T. 435, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement		
Tile Works	50	\$25, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 57, buyers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	£70.0 sales
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$20½, sellers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$58, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$13½, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$24, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Razar	T50	Tls. 40, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 60, sales
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Re- pository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of Shanghai in their Share Report for the week ending December 10th, 1908, state:—There has been a fair amount of business put through during the week. Attention has mostly been directed to Maatschappij & Co. in Langkat shares and Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves, with a large Settlement for December in both stocks fast approaching. Cotton shares have also been well in demand at gradually improving rates. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. Banks have maintained the position reached last week of 885 with Exchange 73. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/2½. Insurance.—North China Insurance. Considerable business has been done. A good number of shares were bought at Tls. 97½, and the demand still continuing the rate improved to Tls. 100. There were buyers at this figure. Yangtze Insurance. Some shares were on offer in the early part of the week at \$115, but a better rate is obtainable at present. Shipping.—There is no business under this heading. Sugars.—Sales of Perak Sugars have been made at Tls. 90 and Tls. 85. Mining.—No business. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. Ltd. Shares have improved to Tls. 117, and are wanted. Anglo-French Land. There has been an enquiry for these at Tls. 100. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd. These shares reached Tls. 80 for cash and December. This appears to be the top for the present, as the rate is not now obtainable. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves. A large business has taken place and the price had weakened somewhat. The market opened on the 3rd with sales at Tls. 142½ for Dec. and on the 4th transactions are reported at Tls. 143, Tls. 143½ and Tls. 144, and for March delivery at Tls. 147 and 147½. These rates may be said to have prevailed until yesterday, when share came in for sale from all directions. The market closed with a weak tendency at Tls. 139 for December and Tls. 143 for March. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons. Considerable business has taken place this week. The cash and/or December rate has advanced to Tls. 71½ and transaction are recorded for March at Tls. 73½, and Tls. 74, Tls. 74½, and Tls. 75, at which latter rate shares are obtainable. International Cottons have advanced to Tls. 60. Soy Chees. Shares are in demand at Tls. 265. Laou Kung Mows. Shares have declined and a sale was made at Tls. 65. Maatschappij & Co. in Langkat. We have to report a decline of Tls. 15 for December delivery, since our last, bringing the rate to Tls. 885. For March delivery the market has been on the whole very steady, and we would briefly quote the rate at closing as Tls. 930 for March. Shanghai Sunatras have had a considerable improvement to Tls. 125 for December and Tls. 130 for March. Shanghai Waterworks. The demand has been maintained and share have changed hands at Tls. 435, and at this rate there are further buyers. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. Shares have changed hands at £70.0. Miscellaneous.—Rates will be found as appended below. Loans and Debentures.—No business reported.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, December 21st

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	212
Credits 4 months' sight	216½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	172½
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	41½
Credits, 60 days' sight	42½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	126½
Bank, on demand	127½
ON CALCUT A.—Telegraphic Transfer	126½
Bank on demand	127½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	82½
ON MANILA.—On demand	82½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	72½
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	101½
ON HAI PHONG.—On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	9½ p.c. pm.
ON BANG OK.—On demand	90½
VEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.70
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$61.65
BAR SILVER per oz	22½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent. discount.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$5.10
"	10 " "	5.95
Hongkong	20 " "	4.70
"	10 " "	4.80

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December:—

ARRIVALS.

- 10, E. of India, British str., from Vancouver.
 10, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 10, Menelaus, British str., from Liverpool.
 11, Delta, British str., from Bombay.
 11, Devanha, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, Fausang, British str., from Hongay.
 11, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
 11, Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
 11, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 11, Kiangching, Chinese str., from Hoihow.
 11, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.
 11, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 11, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
 11, Theseus, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 12, Drufar, Nor. str., from Chinkiang.
 12, Empire, British str., from Melbourne.
 12, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 12, Kingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, Kueishow, British str., from Tientsin.
 12, Kumeric, British str., from Manila.
 12, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 12, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 12, Nicomedia, Ger. str., from Portland.
 12, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 12, Siam, British str., from Singapore.
 13, A. E. Smale, Am. barque, from Portland.
 13, Benlidi, British str., from London.
 13, Choyasang, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Glenearn, British str., from London.
 13, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
 13, Holstein, German str., from Swatow.
 13, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 13, Nanchang, British str., from Chefoo.
 13, Oriel, British str., from Moji.
 13, Perlak, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 13, Quarta, German str., from Banka Island.
 13, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Teenkai, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Tosa M., Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 13, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 14, Ascania, German str., from Shanghai.
 14, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 14, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
 14, Kiangping, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
 14, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 14, Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 14, Wosang, British str., from Swatow.
 14, Yushun, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
 14, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 15, Barcelona, German str., from Hamburg.
 15, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 15, Foochow, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Goeben, German str., from Yokohama.
 15, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Heliopolis, British str., from Chinwantao.
 15, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
 15, Laisang, British str., from Singapore.
 15, Namsang, British str., from Moji.
 15, Persia, Australian str., from Trieste.
 15, Shantung, German str., from Bangkok.
 15, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 16, Chenan, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Chunsang, British str., from Java.
 16, Glenavon, British str., from Singapore.
 16, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 16, Hanoi, French str., from K. C. Wan.
 16, Hongkong M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
 16, Joshin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 16, Koonshing, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Palermo, British str., from Foochow.
 16, Yatshing, British str., from Chefoo.
 17, Changchow, Br. str., from Weihaiwei.
 17, Derfflinger, German str., from Hamburg.
 17, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 17, Prominent, Nor. str., from Tsingtao.
 17, Taiyuen, British str., from Sydney.
 17, Tudor Prince, Br. str., from Shanghai.
 17, Yingchow, Br. str., from Chingwantao.
- December:— DEPARTURES.
 11, Aldenham, British str., for Sydney.
 11, Chipshing, British str., for Tientsin.
 11, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 11, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 11, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
 11, Loksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Segovia, German str., for Singapore.
 11, Singen, British str., for Saigon.

- 11, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Moji.
 11, Yesen Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotsu.
 12, Astyanax, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 12, China, American str., for San Francisco.
 12, Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Devanha, British str., for Europe.
 12, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
 12, Menelaus, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 12, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Saigon.
 12, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Aragonia, German str., for Amoy.
 13, Chihli, British str., for Haiphong.
 13, Empire, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Hangchow, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 13, Pitsanulok, German str., for Swatow.
 13, Prometheus, Nor. str., for Haiphong.
 13, Szechuen, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Glenearn, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 14, Perlak, Dutch str., for Singapore.
 14, Theseus, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Ascania, German str., for Singapore.
 15, Benledi, British str., for Nagasaki.
 15, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 15, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Ischia, Italian str., for Singapore.
 15, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 15, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Marie, British str., for Rangoon.
 15, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Swanley, British str., for Manila.
 15, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 15, Teenkai, British str., for Singapore.
 15, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 15, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Barcelona, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Chi-nen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 16, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Goeben, German str., for Europe.
 16, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Merapi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 16, Usher, British str., for Newcastle.
 16, Zweena, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
 17, Fausang, British str., for Hongay.
 17, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
 17, Kiangching, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 17, Loosok, German str., for Swatow.
 17, Palermo, British str., for London.
 17, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Laisang*, from Singapore, Messrs Smith, Tournay and Kyle.
 Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Messrs. Baring, and V. D. Rurslock.
 Per *Namsang*, from Moji, Capt. and Mrs. Craven and children.
 Per *Kaifong*, from Cebu and Iloilo, Messrs. Layter and Gaiterez.
 Per *Koonshing*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Coleman, Williamson and Bowker.
 Per *King Sing*, from Shanghai, Mrs. & Miss Corneir, and Children, and Mrs. Pereira.
 Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Rev. J. McGowan, Messrs. Layter, Craggo and M. Cummings.
 Per *Haiyang*, from Foochow and Amoy, Miss Rividun, Miss Harford Messrs. Sickgun and S. P. Sin.
 Per *Tean*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs G. C. Arnold, Mrs J. Gillis, Messrs H. J. Touda, J. W. Lueham, L. W. Keim, W. A. Muir and W. B. Dempster.
 Per *Kutsang*, from Calcutta, Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Nicoll and two children, Mrs. A. F. Carwiche, Miss A. E. Saxe, Miss E. W. Lister, Lieut. Cecil J. Wyatt, B.A.M.C., Major R. Ford D.S.O., A.S.C., Messrs. H. L. Crossman, and J. Polglase.
 Per *China*, for San Francisco, Mr and Mrs Jangyet, Mr and Mrs E. H. Osborne, Mr and Mrs J. F. Elliott and son, Mr and Mrs G. H. Harrington, Mrs. Shee, Mrs J. Gillis, Mrs G. C. Hne, Mrs Cormack and child, Miss Irene Wilcox, Miss A. Saxe, Dr. Wm. R. Lamb, Messrs G. L. Judson, T. T. Temple, J. W. L. Jones L. Lehlbach, S. Wolff, E. H. Kroes, L. W. Keim, L. Kam, L. Bew. H. M. Bhinjee, T. D. McKay, E. Peterson, F. J. Berry and L. Jutt.

Per *Hangang*, from Chinkiang, Mr. Scott.
 Per *Hein Chi*, from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Lebos and family.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr & Mrs Schaefer and child, Mr and Mrs J. M. Clarke, Mr and Mrs Robertson and child, Major and Mrs. Rand, Miss G. Hamugun, Miss H. Derham, Major Robertson, Dr. H. Pick, Messrs A. W. Nicol, D. M. Khums, E. W. King, J. H. Khums, N. J. Hutchison, C. Tidale, J. P. Scott, H. Halven, W. Calidle, R. Jones, W. Greenfield, F. and L. Hannan, W. Milstead and D. Rough.

Per *Empress of India*, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Mr and Mrs J. Gibson, Miss E. Ferguson, Miss D. Cheney, Miss F. Boedicker, Messrs E. Hanton, Geo. Dickson, H. Hall and L. E. Collier; from Yokohama, Major and Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Allis; from Kobe, Mr and Mrs E. S. Hartshorn, Mr and Mrs R. Barker; from Nagasaki, Mr Albert A. Jesus; from Shanghai, Col. Mrs and Miss Augur, Dr. and Mrs. Wiedner, Mrs E. Lewis, Miss H. A. Lindsay, Messrs C. H. Ross, L. Murat, C. Howard, R. A. Gubbay and John Kramsky.

Per *Devanha*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mrs Ames Lyde and maid, from Shanghai, Sir Alex. Hosie, Mrs G. W. Fenwick, Mrs J. C. Dormin, Father Sila, Father Jeparrier, Messrs C. P. Cochran, A. C. Hewett, W. Carter N. Ferrero, L. M. Ella and R. Deza; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr and Mrs A. McGlashan 2 children and servant, Messrs D. G. Palley and A. Rose; for Colombo, Mr O. C. Salleran; for Marseilles, Mr K. H. Liddell; for London, Miss Gilliard; for London, from Kobe, Lord and Lady Mostyn, Mr, Mrs and Miss J. L. Aittisson, Hon. Miss G. Mostyn, Miss Harper and maid, Messrs G. A. Laverron and Y. S. Thomas; from Yokohama, Dr. Y. E. Bolton, R.N.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs L. P. Bailey, Mr and Mrs Y. A. Baer, Mr and Mrs R. Y. Louis, Mr and Mrs W. L. Branswell, Mr and Mrs A. Chiaverni, Mr and Mrs J. F. Tracey, Mr and Mrs E. S. Hartshorn, Mr and Mrs R. Moe, Mr and Mrs R. T. Fulton, Major and Mrs B. B. Bay, Mrs J. E. Knudson, L. T. Ellis, Mrs O. P. Downing, Mrs A. Henderson, Miss M. F. Appleton, Miss L. F. Lamme, Miss V. Huntingdon, Miss N. Wielan, Miss D. Cleney, Miss E. Ferguson, Rev. Bishop Henrich, Rev. J. Gruaniraga, Major A. W. Yates, Sister C. Arague, Messrs C. T. Wright, A. H. Hoyt, J. B. Harvey, N. Peterson, T. Vida, R. Deza, L. Tila, V. Ferrero, R. R. Reid, G. Moore, S. Mikami, G. Ramirer, L. P. Lawler, C. Smith and C. Poner.

Per *Goeben*, for Bremen, &c., Mr and Mrs J. S. Betts, Mr and Mrs J. W. Beardsley and son, Mr and Mrs Bagnell, Mr and Mrs v. Becker, Mr and Mrs John M. Clark, Mr and Mrs E. T. Claviter, Mr and Mrs J. R. Hanify, Mr and Mrs Hartranft, Mr and Mrs H. T. Koerner, Mr and Mrs Osmer, Mr and Mrs Pollack, child and servant, Mr and Mrs Schaefer, Mr and Mrs Wilh. Streit, Mr and Mrs O. Stevens, Mr and Mrs Schmidt, Mr and Mrs Whiton, Major and Mrs T. W. Rand, Dr. and Mrs F. Misch, Dr. and Mrs Weidner, Mrs and Miss Le Breton, Mrs and Misses (2) Southerland, Mrs E. L. Bennett, Mrs Bland, Mrs Castleman, Mrs J. B. Dennis, Mrs Gelm & daughter, Mrs Hutchison, Mrs McKeldin, Mrs E. A. Lyde and servant, Mrs Merrimann, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs J. Pruhn, Mrs Qualtrough, Mrs D. Williams, Mrs Wallace and family, Miss M. E. Barrett, Miss Chapman, Miss Helene Denham, Miss B. Hargear, Miss G. Hannigan, Miss Hordorp, Miss M. Marshall, Miss Treize, Miss Turner, Miss Zecklin, Hon. Maurice Stonor, Very Rev. P. Leo, Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, Rev. W. T. Wallace, Capt. Grant, Capt. W. von Senden, Lieut. E. v. d. Knesbeck, Messrs Brown, Becker, Colville, Callewadt, F. Cunliffe-Owen, Arthur J. Dishman, Darby, H. Dick, Denitzen, Korvettenkapitän Enges, H. Fischer, Eichenberg, M. Grünfeld, Leon P. Goebel, N. E. Goolsby, W. J. Hutchinson, Leo. T. Hanigan, Halven, F. Hannigan, McIlraith, E. S. Hartley, R. C. Jones, Kaestner, John Hay Kuhns, Kaiser, G. M. Malcolm, R. W. Marshall, W. Milstead, Nagel, A. Paulmann, L. E. Phipps, A. Roenigk, Fr. Richter, Carl Raab, J. George Scott, H. Suzuki and Tisdall.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS
 "A.M." for the "Concurrence", at 10A, Des Vaux
 Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong
 London Office, 131, Fleet Street, E.C.